



A BUST-UP IN MILAN

Sex war rages in
Italian fashion

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BLOOD ON THE TABLE

Shock horrors
of the burger

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SWAYED BY SUEDE

A cool look at
the top band

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New rates cut unlikely after pound plunges

Worries about Tory drift hit sterling

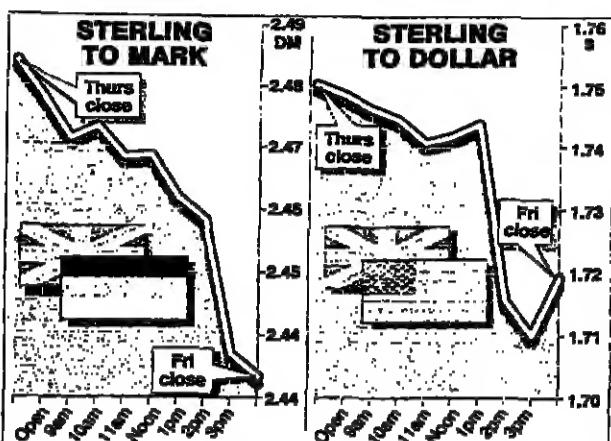
By ANATOLE KALETSKY
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

HOPES of another cut in interest rates ahead of next week's Conservative conference receded yesterday as sterling suffered its biggest fall in foreign exchanges since the immediate aftermath of devaluation on September 16.

The main reason appeared to be anxiety among investors about the lack of a clear economic and foreign policy from John Major and the government.

Concern that the Tory party might split over re-entry to the European exchange-rate mechanism and ratification of the Maastricht treaty increased uncertainty about the government's new economic policy. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, may not begin to unveil the policy until he appears before the Commons Treasury committee the week after next.

In a vicious circle which one big international investor described as potentially disastrous, the fall in the pound triggered further fears about the government's ability to revive the economy and rebuild its popular appeal.



The pound fell against the mark to a record low of DM2.4335, four pence down on the day. It fell a cent against the generally weak dollar to \$1.7270, underlining that the market pressure came from sellers of sterling as well as international buying of marks.

Government officials showed no sign of alarm about the falling pound and there was no indication from the Treasury or Bank of England of a change in Mr Lamont's frequently repeated view that monetary policy would be

based largely on domestic monetary conditions, with the exchange rate merely being taken into account.

But Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, underlined the continuing differences of opinion within the cabinet on sterling's departure from the ERM, implying that the exchange rate should play a bigger role in the government's policy than Mr Lamont had repeatedly suggested.

Asked on BBC radio how far sterling would be allowed to drop, Mr Heseltine said:

"We are now in a floating position, and that presents its own set of problems. One of the most serious risks is that people will respond to the euphoria of a more competitive pound, which is a great opportunity for exporters. But we have seen consistently in the post-war world that when we have had these opportunities with earlier floating pounds, we rapidly eroded it by increased levels of inflation, usually associated with higher pay settlements."

Mr Heseltine said that people should not be deceived by the short-term benefits of leaving the ERM and that higher interest rates were a weapon that Mr Lamont would have to consider if the pound went down too far.

Since Britain's departure from the ERM, Mr Lamont has been careful not to suggest that interest rates would be raised solely to defend sterling, although he had said that a monetary tightening would be considered if the government's "inflationary objectives were put at risk". Both Mr Lamont and Mr Major have indicated that, outside the ERM, tighter control of public spending would have to be used to continue to bear down on inflation.

Although the Bank of England sent no signals of an increase in interest rates, the stock and bond prices fell sharply as the City concluded that a cut in interest rates would now be delayed.

Without the prospect of cutting interest rates, Mr Major will face conference unease over the recession and his decision to press ahead speedily with the Maastricht treaty. Many businessmen and Conservative activists had hoped that the political gloom since September 16 could be lifted with a move on lending rates. But senior ministers were stressing yesterday that they would be constrained by what is turning out to be the toughest public spending squeeze since 1976.

Both the prime minister and the Chancellor have indicated that a tighter policy on public spending would be needed to fight inflation, now that departure from the ERM was allowing monetary policy to be relaxed. But the prospect of having to announce curbs on public spending, without the potential sweetener of lower interest rates, could threaten the government with further unpopularity, as well as exacerbating the public's fear about losing jobs.

There were signs yesterday that Mr Major's gamble in pushing on with the Maastricht treaty would pay off. The Tory whips have begun an exercise to isolate the hardcore rebels. More MPs seem likely to vote against the government when the bill returns than the 22 who defied the whip on the second reading. But the less committed doubters were signalling that they would be unlikely to vote against Mr Major.

Major's armoury, page 2
Cost of support, page 17
Week ending, page 19

House prices drop 1.4% in a month

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

HOUSE prices fell 1.4 per cent last month when would-be home buyers were scared off by sharp fluctuations in interest rates as the pound dropped out of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Last month's reduction was the largest since October 1991, when rates fell by 2.4 per cent. It brings the annual total to 6.2 per cent.

John Hutchinson, Nationwide Building Society's corporate strategy director, said the dramatic increase in bank base rates on September 16, which was rescinded after Britain withdrew from the ERM, had frightened some homebuyers away. "It is the mood that is causing the problem. Confidence took a further knock when it looked as if mortgage rates were going up. People are very rattled and this was another twist in the tail."

Last month's fall in prices was unrepresentative, said Mr Hutchinson, because it followed the rush to buy properties in August ahead of the reimposition of the £30,000 threshold for stamp duty on property purchases. Between December 19 and August 19 properties up to £250,000 were free of the tax. In August the fall in prices slowed to 0.2 per cent.

He continued: "The market has the best affordability since 1971 or 1972." Price and interest rates have come down while wages have risen for those in work.

On September 16, thousands of homebuyers switched mortgages worth hundreds of millions of pounds to fixed

rate loans. Many lenders feared that their payments would otherwise increase by almost 50 per cent. Nationwide's index shows that prices during the third quarter fell by 0.5 per cent compared with the second quarter.

Mr Hutchinson believes the bottom of the market is near. He said: "Although it is always difficult to identify turning points in the housing market, we believe we must be close to such a point now—particularly after the recent lowering of interest rates. We hope that developments in the financial markets will enable the government to reduce interest rates further and that it will continue to review various ideas that have been suggested to encourage a more stable housing market, thereby increasing confidence generally and creating the right set of conditions for a return to more normal levels of activity."

Last week's bank rate cut has brought a large number of special mortgage offers to try to stimulate the housing market. Fixed rate mortgages are as low as 8.2 per cent and large discounts for first-time buyers give rates well below 7.5 per cent.

Until first-time buyers return to the market there will be no recovery, say lenders. Until prices stabilise, many are not willing to risk their savings on a property that might fall in value. A buyer who took on a 95 per cent mortgage a year ago now has a mortgage worth more than the property. Up to 1.5 million people have homes worth less than their outstanding debt.



Modern idol: a Michael Jackson cut-out struts on a Bucharest plinth once occupied by Lenin, to advertise the star's concert. Wacky taste, page 7

Admirals to probe missile accident

By David Wans

THREE senior American admirals were preparing to fly to Turkey last night to investigate why two missiles were fired from the carrier *Saratoga*, striking a destroyer and killing the captain and four crew members.

The disabled Turkish warship *Muavenet* was put under tow yesterday and headed for its home port as the American navy tried to puzzle out why the two Sea Sparrow missiles were discharged at midnight hitting the bridge of the Turkish destroyer.

Commander Charles Connor said the accident was "quite unusual" since no missile firings were scheduled at the time. "We're sending three very, very senior admirals out to all the ships to find out just what went wrong."

"It's quite baffling to us. It could have been any number of things—mechanical, human error," he said. "I can't guess or speculate but we'll be getting to the bottom of it very quickly."

Both ships were taking part in an annual Nato exercise, which usually involves the US, Turkey, Greece and Italy. Lawrence Eagleburger, the acting US Secretary of State, immediately called the Turkish ambassador to express "our apologies and agony over this tragic incident" and to convey sympathy for victims and families.

Crewmen from the *Saratoga* were lowered onto the stricken ship by helicopter. A multinational contingent of ships, including the USS *Thomas S. Gates* and *Iwo Jima*, also steamed to the vessel's aid.

In November 1989, the Navy suspended normal operations for two days after 10 accidents at sea and in the air within a 10-day period, in which ten Navy personnel were killed and at least 71 injured.

Damage limitation, page 7

Perot comes storming back into polls battle

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN DENVER

ROSS Perot has made a striking comeback in the presidential race in the key state of Colorado.

Poll figures taken after his announcement astonished even supporters of the eccentric billionaire. Mr Perot has re-entered the race with 18 per cent support while President Bush has dropped 12 points to 25. Governor Clinton's support had fallen by a single point, to 44.

If accurate, the poll challenges the conventional wisdom that Mr Perot's candidature would help the president by splitting the anti-Bush vote. It suggests that Mr Perot would take many more votes from Mr Bush than from Mr Clinton, putting the Democratic on course for a resounding victory in a state that is one of this year's main election battlegrounds.

As Mr Perot re-entered the race, senior advisers to Presi-

dent Bush and Mr Clinton were about to conclude lengthy negotiations on the format and timetable for a series of three presidential debates. Mr Perot will be invited to participate, the first time an independent challenger has been included in what are often make-or-break political encounters.

To overcome the month-long stalemate between the two camps over the style of the debates, both sides have had to compromise on the format. One of the debates will be more free-wheeling and will be conducted by a single moderator, the form favoured by Mr Clinton, and another will be controlled by the traditional panel of three journalists, as preferred by President Bush. The third debate will probably adopt a combination of moderator and panel.

Perot runs again

Brave Kurd who ran £1m house fraud goes free

By A STAFF REPORTER

A KURDISH politician who defrauded British building societies out of more than a million pounds to house refugees hounded out of Iraq by Saddam Hussein was freed yesterday by a judge after the Foreign Office praised his courage.

Sherwan Dizayee, 36, who faces certain death if he is ever captured by the Iraqis, admitted running a £1.2 million mortgage fraud to house penniless refugees. He admitted obtaining ten properties and nine personal loans by deception.

Southwark Crown Court was told how Mr Dizayee risked his life to slip back into Iraqi Kurdistan to help UN forces set up safe havens for the Kurds after the Gulf war.

Judge Rucker said that he was freeing

the Halifa: Building Society and the Leamington Spa Building Society into handing over mortgages for properties worth more than a million pounds, mainly in south-west London. One near Slough, for instance, was worth £418,000.

Mr Dizayee began the fraud during the housing boom. When the value of the properties began to fall, and interest rates rose steeply, he could not afford the repayments and the fraud was uncovered.

The court was told that in Iraqi Kurdistan Mr Dizayee is regarded as a hero and there are many stories of his bravery. "He is generally recognised as someone who has saved many many lives," Mr de Silva said.

Judge Rucker sentenced Mr Dizayee to 18 months imprisonment suspended for two years.

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Major's Maastricht ultimatum forces the sceptics to waver

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE MPs opposed to ratification of the Maastricht treaty were wavering last night in the face of John Major's ultimatum that they would put party loyalty before their Euro-sceptic beliefs.

Although the hard core of 22 Tories who voted against the government in the second reading debate in May seem certain to defy the whips again in the paving debate pencilled in within a matter of weeks, other MPs who have publicly opposed the treaty appear to be shuffling back into line. They know that if the prime minister is humiliated in the Commons, his government would fall and they would face a general election in unenviable circumstances.

One former minister who has argued openly against the

treaty said that much would depend on the "piece of paper" that the prime minister secured from the Birmingham EC summit. "I do not want to bring down the government," he said. "It may be the prime minister's right by his own lights and if Birmingham goes well, the bill will squeeze through."

James Pawsey, a member of the 1922 executive, who backed the government at second reading but signed the rebel Commons motion calling for a "fresh start" over Maastricht, said that he had not yet decided whether to join a revolt. Another senior signatory said that he would either support the government or abstain.

Some 70 Tories openly called for the abandonment of the treaty when Parliament

briefly reassembled last week. Others, constrained by the discipline of ministerial office or a reluctance to rock the boat, take the real total over 100. But the indications yesterday were that only 30-40 would vote against the government in the paving debate.

Nor are there many signs of imminent ministerial resignations over Mr Major's decision to exert his authority. Sources close to Michael Howard and Peter Lilley, the two most prominent cabinet Euro-sceptics, said yesterday that they had supported the prime minister's move and would continue to do so.

Friends of Mr Howard, the environment secretary, said he felt that the treaty contained "significant concessions" to Britain through the opt-outs over the social chapter and monetary union. Mr Lilley argued in cabinet that it was important for the government to contrast its free-market approach to Europe with the federalist and socialist alternative of Labour.

A number of Thatcherite junior ministers, including Edward Leigh, Michael Forsyth and Neil Hamilton, are known to be hostile to the treaty. However, without a lead from the top, they are thought unlikely to cut short their ministerial careers.

One whip said: "I would not expect people to throw themselves on their swords. The reality is that Labour are not going to oppose us, so why die for nothing?"

Nevertheless, Mr Major will face intense opposition when he confronts the Commons. Mr Pawsey said that the ERM meltdown and sterling's forced exit had undermined confidence in a treaty that sought to set such arrangements in concrete. "As it stands, it will take a great deal to persuade me to vote in favour. At the moment, I am disenchanted." He predicted that the eventual rebellion would be "a bloody sight more than 22". The anti-Maastricht



Fresh face of fun: Peter Brooke comes under close scrutiny as he performs his first official task as national heritage secretary yesterday. "I'm enjoying this, it's terrific," he said as he opened an exhibition by the Polish sculptor Igor Mitoraj at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park near Wakefield.

Mr Brooke's only concern appeared to be the whereabouts of his gunboats as he toured the park in the rain with Mr Mitoraj. He was eventually forced to continue his tour from the comfort of a Range-Rover.

The function was due to have been carried out by David Mellor, Mr Brooke's predecessor as "minister of fun". Mr Brooke, a former Northern Ireland secretary who lost that post

after singing on television within hours of a terrorist atrocity, stepped into Mr Mellor's shoes with obvious enthusiasm, accompanied by a discreet but noticeable security presence.

After lunching with the directors of the sculpture park, set in the grounds of the eighteenth century Bretton Hall, close to the birthplace of Henry Moore, he made a brief speech explaining the qualifications that enabled him to appreciate the classical influences on view: A levels in Latin and Greek, followed by two terms at Balliol College, Oxford, studying ancient history and classical literature.

"I have been inevitably dropped in at the deep end, but there's a lot to do and we have to get on with it," he said of his

new job. "There's no danger of me being unemployed." The national lottery, the BBC charter, self-regulation of the press and the Manchester Olympic bid would keep him busy, he added.

He paid tribute to the work done by Mr Mellor, who set up the ministry after the April general election. "I am extremely proud of what David Mellor achieved in terms of establishing the department and the personal qualities he brought to the task," he said. "In that respect I am his heir and successor."

After touring the sculpture park, Mr Brooke left for the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds. He then went to Leeds Grand Theatre for the opening night of Opera North's *The Duenna*.

Prime minister stakes political future on ratifying treaty

Time to let the whips off the leash as ministers hoist battle standard

By PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

"IT'S time to release Lightbown," the senior minister said after the cabinet's decision to raise the "battle standard and press ahead with the bill ratifying Maastricht treaty. He was referring to David Lightbown, Controller of Her Majesty's Household, otherwise known as the enforcer of the Tory whip's office.

A large, bulky man, he is regarded as the battering ram of the office, short on intellectual persuasion but long on brute political force. Weak-willed Tory MPs have complained about being bullied, but Mr Lightbown is now a vital part of the prime minister's political armoury.

John Major has staked his political future on securing the Maastricht bill. That has always been his instinct, since he is proud of the concessions he won and has said that he could not go back on his promise to ratify the treaty.

In his Commons speech he was vague about the timing, and appeared indecisive. Mr Major discussed with senior advisers how, and when, he should declare his hand. Mr Major knew that talk of a leadership vacuum was debilitating and he had to make up his mind how far he was prepared to go. One option was to endure all the attacks, "not firing his bullets until there is a target to fire at".

The talks which Mr Major and Douglas Hurd held on Wednesday with the French,

German and Danish governments convinced them that the EC summit in mid-October would produce a declaration meeting many of the concerns of the British and Danish public, notably on subsidiarity. While there are no signs of the rest of the EC agreeing to fundamental reform of the exchange rate mechanism, the summit will

agree to long-term review by experts. "The pro-European majority of the cabinet pressed Mr Major to take a lead ahead of the Tory party conference in Brighton next week. Unlike Baroness Thatcher, Mr Major has allowed lengthy discussions at recent Cabinet meetings. Mr Major presented the cabinet with a package intended to keep both sides on board — ratifying the Maastricht treaty, while sterling will not re-enter the ERM for at least 18 months to two years.

The three or four opponents of proceeding with Maastricht are willing to go along because of the indication that sterling will stay outside the ERM, while the pro-Europeans recognise that re-entry is not feasible for a long time. So no resignations are likely at cabinet level, though a few junior ministers in economic departments may quit, mainly those who have never been recon-

ciled with the Major regime.

Four months ago, 22 Tory MPs voted against the second reading of the Maastricht bill, and a handful abstained. The number of potential opponents is higher now, but almost certainly nowhere near the 70 or more who have signed anti-Maastricht Commons motions. Ministers reckon that, once Mr Major and the whips have got to work, the hard-core rebels are probably no more than 30. Nothing the whips can say, or threaten, is likely to affect the votes of Sir

Teddy Taylor, Nicholas Budge, William Cash and Michael Spicer, and they will not bother to try. Their efforts will concentrate on recently elected younger MPs ambitious for preferment. The government hopes for a majority on the basis of Tory votes alone, but it should be able to

count on most of the 20-strong Liberal Democrats and on a handful of Labour MPs. The Labour leadership supports Maastricht in principle, though it is using the opt-outs from the social chapter and from economic and monetary union to justify abstention.

Moreover, the opportunity to embarrass a weakened government means that, in practice, Labour is likely to oppose attempts to accelerate progress on the bill, via closure motions and any nullifiers. But a sizeable minority of Labour MPs, possibly 60 to 80, are likely to vote against the bill.

So there are likely to be several close votes, late nights and weekend sittings, but in the end the odds are still that the Commons will approve the bill. Mr Major has taken the only course he could by siding with the pro-European majority in his cabinet. But that promises many battles ahead and still leaves the difficulty of formulating a credible economic strategy outside the ERM. He is far from safe.

Bottomley commits £500m to home care

By JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MORE old people are to be cared for in their own flats and houses under government plans to cut the growing cost of keeping them in residential homes, it was announced yesterday.

More than £500 million is to be transferred from the social security department to local authorities next year to pay for care of the elderly. This amount will treble by 1995.

The local authorities will assume responsibility for care of the elderly under new community arrangements which will be introduced next April. State help is currently available only to people in residential homes.

Announcing the figures to the social services directors' conference in the Isle of Wight, Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, said individuals must continue to have a choice in the kind of care they were offered and where it was provided.

The policy will fall if people think that care packages are just being handed down to them by experts," she said. "In Clacton you will find a lady who moved from Bermuda to be near her sister. The mechanisms must be in place to enable her to do that."

David Blunkett, the shadow health secretary, said the figure announced by Mrs Bottomley represented a funding shortfall of £300 million. "Tens of thousands of elderly and frail people are going to be left in an impossible position because of this squeeze on cash," he said. "Today's announcement is the first sign of public spending cuts that the government will announce later this year."

Social services leaders welcomed the announcement of the figure, acknowledging that it had been achieved in a difficult economic climate. But the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities said it fell £200 million short of what was necessary. Toby Harris, chairman of the association, said: "Perhaps 12,000 vulnerable people will not be receiving services they need next year."

Mrs Bottomley said that 110,000 old people were expected to need care in the first year of the scheme. They would have cost £399 million in social security payments to private old people's homes and this sum, plus a further £140 million chiefly for administrative costs, would be transferred to local authorities to spend on residential and domiciliary care.

To prevent widespread closures of private old people's homes if local authorities were to switch clients to their own homes, 75 per cent of the first year's total of £539 million must be spent in the private sector, she said. Private domiciliary services which could provide care cheaply in people's own homes are expected to benefit.

The number of old people going into residential care has been rising by up to 25,000 a year and the cost in social security payments has risen from £10 million in 1979 to £2.5 billion last year.

Shambling to the EC summit via Coventry

Baffled British ministers will need to find a more acceptable alternative to the S-word, George Brock writes

AFTER several weeks of bad-tempered shambles at the heart of Europe, John Major faces the unwelcome prospect that when he chairs the EC's Birmingham summit later this month, his colleagues may send him to Coventry.

He can divert attention from his own difficulties only if everyone agrees to talk "subsidiarity". The principle that Brussels should act only when necessary desperately needs a new name. Headline writers and politicians loathe the word for its length and obscurity. Ministers rapidly descend into gibberish when they try to define it.

But the dread term will be everywhere before long, for subsidiarity is supposed to be a miracle cure for the EC's ills. The term comes from Roman Catholic doctrine, and people like Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, who has been bawling about it since 1987, resent British ministers behaving as if they invented the idea.

Two years ago, Britain's senior commissioner in Brussels, Sir Leon Britan, asked his staff to find a new name for subsidiarity. They failed. The prime minister and Douglas Hurd spent a plane trip together jostling possible substitutes on the back of an envelope. They rolled "minimum interference" around

their tongues and Mr Hurd tried the uncharismatic phrase again in a speech this week, but it will sink without trace. Advisers of a military cast of mind unsuccessfully suggested "no go areas" for EC intervention.

After Mr Hurd's warning that the Commission should not poke into the "nooks and crannies" of national life, someone murmured that the government could back an "anti-cranny" policy. Wise heads realised in time that a single misprinted letter would result in an anti-granny policy.

Meanwhile, thanks to the Danish referendum and a narrow squeak in the French vote, the European Commission has felt the effects of people power. The EC's bureaucracy has been forced to see itself as others see it.

They are used to polls of the kind recently conducted in Britain, which discovered that half the respondents did not know who or what Jacques Delors is. But recent polls have shown that four out of ten Dutch don't seem to know anything about Maastricht. French reporters asked the burghers of the southern Dutch town, where the document was signed, their opinion of the referendum. They were shocked to find that the Maastrichters could not care less.



Pawsey: undecided on joining Tory revolt

diehards, led by Sir Teddy Taylor and Michael Spicer, will seek to maximise their forces in the vote on the paving debate then dig in for weeks of trench warfare as the government battles to get its way in the line by line scrutiny of the committee stage.

Sir Teddy said yesterday that it was "tragic" that Mr Major was pressing on and predicted that MPs would have to be "dragooned" through the voting lobbies to get the bill through.

But as the whips are pointing out, the arithmetic is on Mr Major's side. As long as Labour does not vote against the government, a combination of Tory and Labour rebels would not be enough to wreck the legislation, only to delay its passage. But all these calculations would be overturned if John Smith sprung an ambush, perhaps at third reading, or backed a referendum.

MPs try referendum shuffle

HOPES of both ministers and Labour party leaders that MPs will be denied a debate on a referendum over the Maastricht treaty are likely to be dashed. Opponents of closer European unity believe they can bypass procedural rules which appear to prevent amendment of the European Communities (Amendment) Bill to provide for a plebiscite.

Both the government and the shadow cabinet have come out strongly against the idea. Yet rebels on both sides of the referendum proposal is the one around which they can build the most support.

Because they know they face their greatest internal revolts on the issue, Tory and Labour leaderships are hoping that Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, rules referendum amendments out of order on the advice of her clerks.

Commons officials confirmed yesterday that a refer-

Party leaders' hopes of stifling debate on a plebiscite are fading, writes Philip Webster

endum proposal would, as the bill stands, be out of order. Anything proposed in the bill that would require the outlay of public expenditure — as a referendum would — has to be covered by a "money resolution".

Only the government can put down money resolutions, something it would not do to facilitate a rebel amendment. However, ingenious sceptics believe they have found ways round the restriction. Richard Shepherd and William Cash have tabled a proposed new clause suggesting that after the passing of the act the govern-

ment should bring forward an Order in Council "making such provision as her Majesty thinks appropriate" for ascertaining national opinion over the treaty ratification.

They believe this to be in order because it would not be the act but a later Order in Council that would incur the expenditure, money that the government would find hard to refuse.

The other amendment that appears to be in order, according to Commons sources, even though its effect would be to result in a referendum, is one from Sir Teddy Taylor saying that the act should not come into effect until steps had been taken "to establish that the measure has the full-hearted consent of the British people".

Sir Teddy said last night: "Although this does not refer to a referendum, it would be unthinkable that the government would not grant one if it went through."

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Rapist who was released by police struck again

Civil servant passport

Rapist who was released by police struck again

By RAY CLANCY

A JUDGE yesterday ordered an enquiry into why police released a rapist who then went on to sexually assault another woman.

Glory Kwanteng, 32, a kitchen porter, was jailed for a total of 14 years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday for raping a French student in Highgate cemetery, north London, and for assaulting a designer in her home five months later.

He had been out of prison for only two months after serving a six-month term for indecently assaulting a girl aged ten when he attacked and raped a 19-year-old French student by the tomb of Karl Marx in Highgate cemetery.

Police arrested Kwanteng, of Kenilworth Town, north London, five days later but he was released when his employer confirmed he was working on the day of the rape. Five months later Kwanteng indecently assaulted a woman designer as she lay in bed. He broke into her flat in Belsize Park, north London, at 2am. She woke to find him standing at the end of her bed. As he attacked her she managed to push him away and he fled.

Kwanteng was questioned again after he was seen trying to get into a nurse's home by climbing a drainpipe. Kwanteng was described in court as an extremely agile man who could climb up and down walls and drainpipes like a human spider. His fingerprints were found on the window sills of the home.

Police later discovered that he had been on a break from work when the student was attacked. Detectives further

matched Kwanteng to the cemetery rape by taking a dental impression of his teeth and comparing it with a bite on the arm of the raped teenager.

Sentencing Kwanteng Judge Coumbe said he was an evil man who was a danger to the public. "You are a very dangerous man as far as women are concerned. These offences are part of a history of violence and an utter disregard for other human beings."

The judge also criticised the police for the way they handled the investigation and described the initial release of Kwanteng as "a very unfortunate error of judgment". He called for an investigation into how Kwanteng was released.

The matter has been referred to the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

The court was told by the judge that the women attacked by Kwanteng had suffered dreadfully. The French student had worried for six months that she might have contracted a sexual disease from the rape. "She has lost her self-confidence and she finds it difficult to talk about the matter because rape in France is a very taboo subject. She has lost weight and finds her own personality changes confusing. This girl is almost at the beginning of her life and it has been ruined by the man in the dock as a result of the rape he subjected her to," the judge said.

She had been visiting the tomb of Karl Marx in May last year when she was dragged into bushes, stripped, brutally beaten and bitten on the arm. She tried to fight him off but her judo training was not enough.

Civil servant jailed for passport conspiracy

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CIVIL servant who claimed he was frightened into supplying British passports to Chinese businessmen allegedly linked to Triad gangsters was yesterday jailed for three years.

But in exchange for handing over more than 100 full British passports to people not entitled to them, David Lynch was paid £7,000 to £10,000 and given cars, televisions, video recorders and a rent-free luxury flat, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Lynch, 23, a passport examiner in London's Petty France office, told police he was "jumped" by three Chinese men, there was a fight and one held a gun to his head. Brendan Finucane, for the prosecution, said: "They said if he did not get a passport something would happen to Lynch, his parents or girlfriend," Mr Finucane added.

Det Con Colin Smith told the court that, while it could

not be proved, "we would say there was Triad influence" in the case. Judge Gerald Butler QC accepted Lynch did not initiate the conspiracy and was subjected to "threats of violence".

Lynch, of Lambeth, south London, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to obtain passports by deception, forged the names of other passport examiners to issue travel documents, the court was told.

Mr Finucane said 85 per cent of those receiving the passports were Hong Kong citizens of Chinese origin. The passports were in great demand and of "immense value" so people could leave the colony before it was returned to China in 1997, he said.

An imitation pistol, blank ammunition and completed passport application forms were found at Lynch's home. Stephen Man, 35, of Bingley Drive, Sunbury, Surrey, and his brother Patrick, 43, of Cogsway Road, Hanworth, west London, admitted a single charge of obtaining one passport by deception. Both were originally from Hong Kong and run a restaurant in London's Chinatown.

They were jailed for six months and ordered to pay £500 prosecution costs. The court was told they paid Lynch £500 for their British passports.

Outside the court, Mr Smith said that a British passport could fetch up to £40,000 in Hong Kong, where a strong black market operated on the streets.



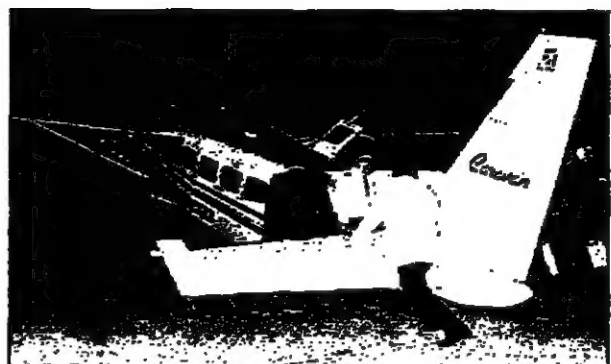
Flight to safety: a group of Bosnian children celebrating their arrival at Gatwick airport on Thursday night after rescue from mountain hideouts. Twenty-one children and four mothers were crammed into an aircraft, right, built to hold ten (Julia Llewellyn Smith writes). The plane tipped backwards as it landed at Gatwick because the children, aged between five and 17, had all rushed to the back to get off. Last night, they arrived by coach in Elgin, Grampian, from where they will be resettled with Scottish families.

All but six of those rescued were orphans and many had not eaten for days. They were picked up by helicopter from villages

where they were hiding and taken to Split. Elizabeth Cooper, co-ordinator of the Sarajevo Child Lifeline, which organised the rescue, said: "Children were hiding behind hedges and in the mountains. They are frightened out of their wits."

The children landed minutes after another flight brought 21 wounded Bosnian soldiers from Kijaka. The men, aged between 20 and 29, were taken to hospitals in Kent and Sussex.

□ The Roman Catholic Church yesterday issued a document criticising countries trying to stem the influx of refugees. The Vatican said that indifference to refugees was a sin of omission.



Teacher in GCSE row seeks job

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A HISTORY teacher whose defence of traditional teaching was singled out for praise by the prime minister yesterday had spent the previous day before an internal council tribunal, fighting to save his job as a supply teacher.

In a letter published yesterday, Dr John Freeman said that Dr Anthony Freeman and Chris McGovern, who both lost their jobs at Lewes Priory School, East Sussex, after criticising the GCSE syllabus in 1987, had "amply demonstrated challenges to the traditional core of this crucial subject".

Since he left Lewes Priory, Dr Freeman, who is a member of the School Examinations and Assessment Council's history committee, has been unable to find a job in East Sussex, and has been employed only rarely as a supply teacher. East Sussex county council denies that he was being victimised.

"We are not hounding him out. We have done all we can to support him. We have actually put him forward for three interviews with schools and one with a college. On each occasion he has been unsuccessful," a spokeswoman said.

Dr Freeman has welcomed the prime minister's support. "It is said that it has required action from so high a quarter to raise the question of a review," he said. However, his own future on the council's supply list was still being debated last night.

Mr McGovern, who now teaches at a private preparatory school, said county education officials had not helped Dr Freeman. "They are being incredibly hypocritical," he said. "It is deplorable and disgraceful."

Dr Freeman was widely regarded as one of the best history teachers in the country. He is highly qualified and has a formidable record.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Norman's conquest

In order for this to succeed it is going to take killer instinct on the part of all our leaders out there... We need commanders in the lead who absolutely, clearly



understand that they will get through. I cannot afford to have commanders who do not understand that it is attack, attack, attack, attack and destroy every step of the way. We cannot fail, and we will not fail. Anybody in here who doesn't understand that, get out of the way...

First exclusive extract from *It Doesn't Take a Hero* by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf - in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

Used against a child, it can cause serious internal injuries.

THERE'S A dangerous myth that so long as you don't knock your children about you're doing alright as a parent.

If a child has been physically abused you can see the bruises.

But verbal abuse can be just as damaging. You don't see the scars, but they are there and some of them never heal. Instead of broken limbs you get broken hearts.

Verbal abuse isn't only a matter of shouting at a child, either.

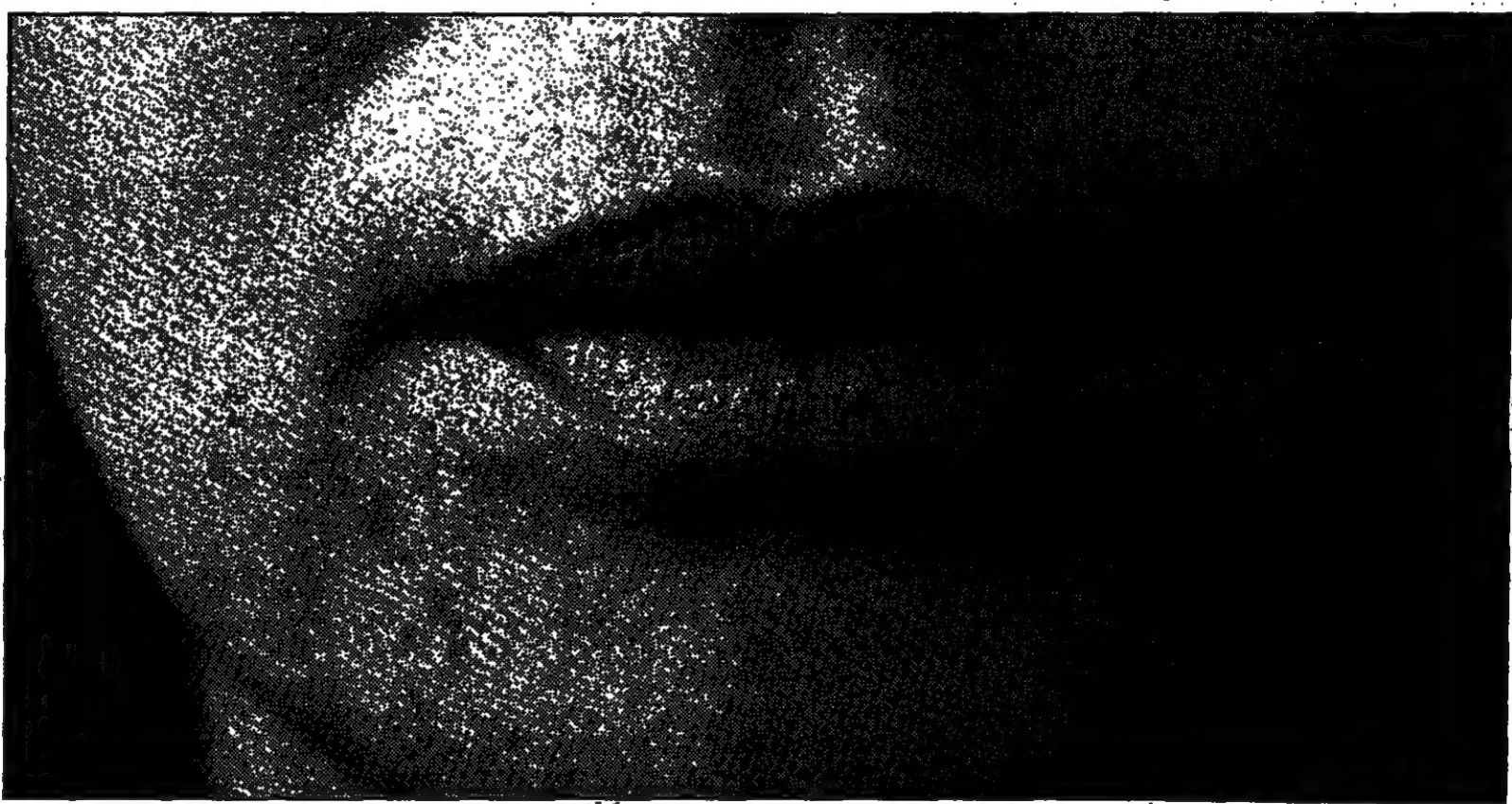
Parents being quietly sarcastic or repeatedly critical can eat away at a child's confidence. And again, if a child is ignored apart from perhaps the occasional grunt, it can have equally harmful consequences.

But why do parents attack their children like this?

More often than not it's a result of stress. It may be the children themselves creating the stress by being naughty, or noisy, or by being just too demanding.

It may be caused by a particular environment. A supermarket for example. Or overcrowded housing. Or it may be caused by mounting debts, or fears about job security. Or by a day packed with irritating happenings, or by a disintegrating relationship between the parents.

But whatever causes the stress, the consequences are often the same. A child gets disciplined too harshly. Or criticised unnecessarily. Or worse still, he gets the blame for something he didn't even do.



Eventually the child will be convinced that whatever he does will be wrong because he can never do anything right. But then when he tries to avoid doing anything he's got at for doing nothing.

The NSPCC doesn't pretend that being a parent is easy.

And we're not saying that you shouldn't discipline your child, because children need to know right from wrong. But it's important to be consistent in what you say is right and what is wrong.

And when you discipline your child, it's important too to criticise her action rather than criticising her as a person.

In other words, saying "that was a horrible thing to do," instead of "what a horrible girl you are."

Try reasoning. Try understanding the situation from the child's point of view.

And remember how important your own parents' words were to

you. How cutting you found it if they ever criticised you unfairly.

But most important, try not to give in to stress and let it make you a less caring parent. Because unfortunately, an unkind response can become the norm. Worse still, it can deteriorate into ever more damaging abuse.

The NSPCC has produced a booklet which explains the causes of stress and offers some practical suggestions for coping with it.

But if you're at the end of your tether now, please call the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 500.

Our suggestions may help you realise the pleasures of being a parent, which in turn could help your son or daughter realise the joys of being a child.

For a copy of our booklet, call 071-242 1626.

NSPCC
Act Now For Children.

John 10/20

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MMH policy
are safe
Irish
Maver
Oil
Zoo
Twin
Card
Bomb
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MULTIYO
OPEN THEIR EYES
MAIDSTO
Made in
0622 69 1072

MMI policyholders are safe, says AA

Drivers and homeowners insured with Municipal Mutual Insurance were reassured last night that they were still covered. The Automobile Association, which has placed 30,000 motorists and 230,000 householders with the company, told them not to worry and said last night that if it should become necessary the AA would transfer policies to another company, at no extra cost to policyholders.

Meanwhile since Wednesday's announcement that MMI, which insures nine out of ten of Britain's councils, was unable to provide cover, several local authorities were still without insurance. Exeter City Council, which closed leisure facilities and took all its vehicles off the road, has arranged a new insurance deal, which will cost an extra £146,000 a year, an increase of 52 per cent. Rutland council, Leicestershire, has closed services while it tries to find alternative cover. One company offering cover said it had been inundated.

Search for cover, page 18

Irish judge killed

A Dublin supreme court judge and his wife have been killed in a car accident at Leixlip near Seville in southern Spain where he had been attending a legal conference. Judge Niall McCarthy, 67, and his wife Barbara, 65, died after their hire car was in collision with a lorry on Thursday. The 27-year-old Spanish lorry driver was seriously injured. The judge is believed to have been planning to attend Irish national day celebrations at Expo '92 in Seville tomorrow.

Maxwell trust payout

The first payments to Maxwell pension fraud victims were made by the Maxwell Pensioners Trust yesterday. Forty people have been sent a total of £16,000 in backdated payments. The trust, set up by Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, in June, said that further payments were being processed. Almost £5.75 million in donations from companies and from individuals has been received since fund-raising began on July 17.

Oil workers protected

Safety representatives will be protected from victimisation by legislation about to go through Parliament, Michael Forsyth, the employment minister, said yesterday. Mr Forsyth, visiting a Shell/Eso gas terminal at St Fergus, Grampian, said that an unacceptable number of safety representatives were being victimised by employers for carrying out their duties. Dismissed workers will be able to complain to industrial tribunals, regardless of length of service.

Zoo opponents banned

Eight anti-zoos activists were banned from every zoo in Britain as a condition of bail after being charged with trespass and theft from London Zoo. Marylebone magistrates, northwest London, bailed Jan Stacey, 23, Alison Emory, 24, Julie Burgess, 25, Martin Ormrod, 25, Sonia Hillidge, 22, Rhian Thomas, 23, and Martin Hughes, 25, all of Greater Manchester, and Joanne Ebner, 23, of Hillingdon, west London, until November 13.

Twin awarded damages

Mary Anne Moore, 37, brain-damaged when doctors delivered her twin brother, was awarded £325,000 damages at the High Court. Mary Anne, of Chatham, Kent, was deprived of oxygen when Mrs Moore was given a routine drug at All Saints Hospital, Chatham, after giving birth to her brother. The health authority denied liability.

Car deliveries improve

The recession has encouraged the motor industry to step up measures to ensure buyers of new cars receive "factory fresh" vehicles within days of paying a deposit. Production schedules have been improved and stocks held by dealers reduced to cut the numbers of unsold cars. The result is fewer models on show for prospective buyers to see. But if they buy, the car will have left the assembly line about ten days before instead of standing for months in a compound.

Bomb loses bounce

The prototype bomb recovered off Dorset this week is not an early version of the Barnes Wallis bouncing bomb, museum curators said yesterday. The spherical device found in the sea off Chesil Beach is, in fact, the only known working prototype of the top secret Highball, a more advanced project. The 4,000lb weapon was designed to be spun at 1,000rpm for use against battleships and could penetrate the thickest armour.

£150,000 surgery gift

An anonymous donor has given £150,000 to a trust raising money to pay for a liver and bowel transplant for Stuart Masters, 3, of Shobryness, Essex. Stuart will have the operation at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital in the United States if the trust can raise £380,000. It needs a further £90,000. Stuart's father, Peter, said: "I would love to go and meet this person and thank them. I don't care where the money comes from as long as Stuart gets his operation."



High notes: the New Zealand-born soprano Dame Kiri Te Kanawa was named artist of the year yesterday and the conductor Sir George Solti received a lifetime achievement award at the record industry's annual Gramophone Awards ceremony at the Dorchester in London

Ice-cream to engineering hit

Job cuts push week's total past 9,000

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE grip of recession forced another two big employers to axe jobs and more to threaten redundancies yesterday, taking the toll of job losses to over 9,000 for the week.

Economists added to the gloom, saying that the unemployment levels, currently running at 2.8 million, could top three million by next year.

Neil Mackinnon, chief economist at Citibank, said: "Even a devaluation and lower interest rates might not be enough to generate growth and help slow the unemployment rate. Rising unemployment may well persist to the end of 1994."

The last time unemployment was at three million was in February 1987, when 10.9 per cent of the workforce was unemployed and the rate was rising from the levels of 1986. The current rate is 9.9 per cent.

British Eye cut 40 workers from its Gloucester ice-cream factory yesterday. A spokesman said all the redundancies would be voluntary, and there was no shortage of volunteers. The engineering giant

Dowty is continuing to trim its aerospace business with another 265 redundancies. Seventy-five were announced yesterday from Dowty Aerospace Landing Gear at Staverton near Gloucester, and 190 from Dowty Aerospace in Wolverhampton.

Aerospace director Andrew Stephens said the Gloucester redundancies were to ensure the business stayed competitive at a difficult time, but Charles Lomas, regional organiser of the Manufacturing Science and Finance union, said there was no need for the firm to shed jobs, and accused Dowty management of putting the cream of Gloucestershire's engineering talent on the scrap heap.

Other job cuts were threatened yesterday. The Southampton shipbuilder Vesper Thornycroft fears that over 200 jobs could go after it failed to land a multi-million pound contract to refit the Royal Navy minesweeper HMS Asterstone. Martin Jay, the company's managing director, described the Ministry of Defence decision as a "severe disappointment".

Vesper announced in January that it might have to make 350 workers redundant before March next year if new orders were slow to come. Since then, 145 jobs have been axed.

Sir Robert McAlpine, the civil engineer, confirmed rumours that a job reduction programme was under way. Ken Singleton, the personnel manager, said there was no intention to close any of the group's regional offices.

Merseyside, which already has an unemployment rate of 15 per cent, faced up to another 320 job losses yesterday. One hundred jobs at the Kirby plant of the ice-cream maker Lyons Maid's could be cut, 180 are likely to go from Broadgreen hospital, after a private company won a contract for their work, and 40 dustmen may lose their jobs in an efficiency drive.

The news comes after job cuts both last week and earlier this week. This week has seen over 8,000 cuts, including 2,000 from the Defence Research Agency, 400 from Northern Telecom, 300 from Pirelli Cables, 600 from IBM, 390 from shipbuilder VSEL and 450 from Cadbury Schweppes. Last week's total approached 6,500, including 3,000 from British Aerospace, 1,487 from Ford and 950 from Rolls-Royce Motors.

Lakes fight costly and cosy image

By RONALD FAIR

WORDS WORTHY, saunas and fine scenery dominate the public awareness of Cumbria, according to a survey by the Cumbria Marketing Initiative launched yesterday in Barrow-in-Furness at a presentation for Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade.

Businessmen in the county are anxious to alter this image, and are seeking development area status for West Cumbria ahead of expected further job losses at the VSEL yard in Barrow and in other areas of the county's industry.

Mr Heseltine said the initiative deserved to win and he hoped his department would give every support "proper and reasonable in the circumstances". These were difficult economic times, he said. Mr Heseltine cut short his visit under pressure of parliamentary business, leaving Cumbrians with no clear idea whether the government would support their initiative in the review of assisted areas.

The draw in game 13, with Fischer playing white, came after a lengthy battle of attrition, during which each player misperceived and tested the weaknesses in the opposing camp.

The opening was a duplicate of the Sicilian defence, as played in game 11, which had resulted in a brilliant Fischer victory, but on move six

Spassky introduced an important innovation that blunted the force of Fischer's attack. Queens were traded on move 14 and then Fischer tried unsuccessfully to fix on pawn weakness. Spassky, defending very surely, ward off all attempts.

The draw finally came when the position was repeated and it was Fischer who made the offer.

White Black White Black
1 e4 e5 24 Nc4 Rb5
2 Nf3 Nc6 25 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bc4 g6 26 Rf2 Rb5
4 Bxb3 Bxb3 27 Rf1 Rb5
5 0-0 Bg7 28 Rf1 Rb5
6 Rf1 Bc8 29 Kf2 Bc8
7 B3 B6 30 Rf1 Rb7
8 d4 cxd4 31 Nc3 Rb8
9 cxd4 0-0 32 Nf1 b4
10 Nc3 c6 33 Nf2 Bb6
11 Qd4 Qc5 34 Nc4 Bc5
12 Nc2 Nf7 35 Kd3 Bg7
13 Nc4 Qd1 36 Rf2 Rb7
14 Bb5 Qc4 37 Rf1 Rb8
15 Nc3 c5 38 Nf2 Rb8
16 e5 Rf5 39 Nc3 Bg8
17 Rf1 Rf5 40 Nc2 Bf7
18 Nc3 Bf7 41 Bc2 Bb6
19 Rf2 Rb8 42 Rf1 Rb8
20 Nc3 Kd3 43 Nc4 Rf7
21 a3 Rb5 44 Nc5 Rb7
22 B4 Nf5 45 Nc4 Rb7
23 Rf1 Kd8 Draw agreed

The final position

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15 Nc3 c5 38 Nf2 Rb8
16 e5 Rf5 39 Nc3 Bg8
17 Rf1 Rf5 40 Nc2 Bf7
18 Nc3 Bf7 41 Bc2 Bb6
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20 Nc3 Kd3 43 Nc4 Rf7
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Chess champions battle to a draw

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE thirteenth game of the chess championship in Belgrade between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky has ended in a draw after 45 moves and 5½ hours of play.

The score in the world record \$5 million (£2.9 million) match is five wins to Fischer and three to Spassky, with five drawn games.

The draw in game 13, with Fischer playing white, came after a lengthy battle of attrition, during which each player misperceived and tested the weaknesses in the opposing camp.

The opening was a duplicate of the Sicilian defence, as played in game 11, which had resulted in a brilliant Fischer victory, but on move six

Spassky introduced an important innovation that blunted the force of Fischer's attack. Queens were traded on move 14 and then Fischer tried unsuccessfully to fix on pawn weakness. Spassky, defending very surely, ward off all attempts.

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Partners help men find love of God

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

BIG evangelistic rallies are not as effective as wives and girlfriends at converting men to Christianity, according to a report published yesterday.

Most adults find God through the help of a friend, relative or minister, according to the report. Only 4 per cent are converted at rallies, it says. The most effective means of evangelism is one partner to another, particularly women to men.

The report will surprise many church leaders, who believe the best way to convert people is at large, charismatic events with lavish use of high-tech sound and video systems. The findings refute established evangelism, and will lead many church leaders to reassess their strategies.

The decade of evangelism, in its second year, has so far failed to catch the public imagination outside church circles, although the recent launch of Springboard, the evangelism initiative of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, could prove more successful.

More than two-thirds of Christians find faith gradually rather than through a sudden conversion, according to the report. Evangelical and charismatic churches emerge as the most successful at conversions.

Canon John Finney, author of *Finding Faith Today* and the Church of England officer for the decade of evangelism, said: "Without exception, all those surveyed felt more integrated as human beings because they had become Christians."

Finding Faith Today (Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westley, Swindon, SN5 7DG; £6.95)

CORRECTION

In the Life & Times article "What shall we tell the president" (August 18), we inadvertently published a photograph of Grigori Baklanov, the distinguished Russian author and editor of the literary magazine, *Znamya*. We should have published a photograph of Oleg Baklanov, the former deputy chief of the Defence Council, who was involved in the attempted coup against President Gorbachev. We apologise for the error.

The photograph that appears on page 2 of Weekend Times is that of Nick Owen, former presenter of Good Morning Britain, and not of Nicholas Owen the ITN newscaster, whose words appear below the illustration. We apologise for the error.

Careers staff are latest victims

By TIM JONES

WORKERS in British industry charged with helping to provide employment are being made redundant in the worst slump since the thirties.

Among the latest casualties are 91 field officers employed by the government-funded Construction Industry Training Board who seek to provide jobs for young people in the building industry.

The training board has seen its intake decrease from an expected figure of more than 14,000 to about 10,000 and of those, 2,000 failed to receive sponsorship from firms. In May, the industry had only 933 apprentices, compared with 1,893 a year earlier.

The board had already announced in April it was shedding 120 posts because of the recession and said it saw no improvement until at least 1995. A spokesman said: "Companies are fighting to survive, so it is not surprising that they are not taking on apprentices."

The Building Employers' Confederation said: "Interest rates must be cut as soon as possible and local authorities must be allowed to use more of the capital receipts from the sale of council houses and land for housing investment."

More than 60,000 jobs have been lost in the engineering industry this year. The Engineering Employers' Fed-

eration said: "We must now expand our manufacturing base to get people permanently back to work. An industrial strategy is needed to shift resources into investment, infrastructure, education and training."

Other casualties this week included 100 employees of 3L, the venture capital and investment group which helps industry to expand. The cuts were blamed on greater use of information technology and changing patterns of business.

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Let old dissension be forgot: John Smith holds his party together, with a little help from Tory financial diversions, at this year's lacklustre conference

Smith vows to keep pressure on Tories

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR plans to keep up a relentless attack on the state of the economy and the government's broken manifesto promises in the House of Commons over the next few months.

John Smith intends to focus on the government's mishandling of the economy and on public spending cuts which he is certain will be worse than predicted. He and other members of the shadow cabinet are expected to highlight each spending cut as it is announced by the government and compare it with the Conservative election manifesto pledges.

"I suspect we are heading for very severe expenditure cuts which will be very damaging to the economy and upset public services by depriving them of finances," Mr Smith said yesterday, after his party's annual conference in Blackpool. "It would be hard to imagine a government that has acted more incompetently than we have seen in recent weeks. Their economic policy is demolished."

He said he had never heard of a situation where a Chancellor and prime minister were going to their own conference with no idea of their economic policy.

Earlier Mr Smith wrote to

ECONOMY

the prime minister asking him to spell out in detail the events leading to "Black Wednesday". Although Mr Major was still insisting that there was no alternative to the withdrawal from the exchange rate mechanism, the Bundesbank had claimed it had suggested a general realignment of ERM currencies to the German government on September 11. In addition the Bank of England had not asked the Bundesbank to take any further action beyond the intervention required under EMS rules.

"Given the fundamental disagreement that exists between the British and German governments' versions of events, it is quite unacceptable to attempt to sweep this problem under the carpet," Mr Smith wrote.

"Your credibility and that of your Chancellor will remain in doubt until you make a statement which totally resolves the serious and substantial differences. The British public deserve to know the truth about all the options considered."

Meanwhile Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, and Margaret Beckett, the party's deputy leader, continued to

harrangue the government over the economy. Mr Brown challenged Norman Lamont to give detailed costings of the government's mistakes. "Yesterday's drop in currency reserves was the first instalment of the bill now being paid by the British people for the government's mishandling of the economic crisis." Together with the Ecu loan, the eventual bill could be £1 billion, he said.

"It is now time we had full answers to our questions about the government's handling of events, what the operation cost, why the government did not consider realignment in preference to devaluation, and why the Bank of England failed to ask the Bundesbank to take further action."

In television interviews, the Labour leadership again refused to spell out its tactics once the Maastricht ratification bill is reintroduced in the Commons. While it is likely the party will vote against the guillotine at the committee stage of the bill Mr Smith, who is personally committed to the party's pro-European policy, will not want to be seen to be wrecking the chances of ratifying the Maastricht treaty.

Sterling collapse, page 1
Tory rebels waver, page 2

Dull debate takes the heat off Labour's leadership

The party left Blackpool united, despite its election defeat, writes Jill Sherman

THE Labour leadership yesterday shrugged off a heavy defeat on defence spending as a minor "aberration", and made it clear it had no intention of changing policy in this area.

Against national executive committee advice, delegates had earlier carried a resolution by more than 3.5 million votes, calling for defence spending to be brought down to the European average.

Although John Evans, the conference chairman, said the NEC always took account of conference decisions, officials made it clear later that the defeat on defence spending, now a regular feature of Labour conferences, would be effectively ignored.

The small hiccup was barely noticed as officials celebrated the end of a dull conference where divisions and recriminations over the election defeat were kept firmly under wraps.

The conference ended on a much less triumphant note than last year. There was no opera singer and no *We Are the Champions*. The concluding fanfare was confined to the traditional rendition of the *Red Flag* and *Auld Lang Syne*.

Senior officials, delighted that the lacklustre debates had kept Tory troubles on the front pages and their problems

invisible, described the docile mood as "a healthy sign" that delegates had been successfully wooed by John Smith.

Larry Whitty, the party's general secretary, said: "We knew we had a good conference because the media found it boring. Two or three weeks ago I was rather worried. I saw a conference clamouring with recriminations, search-

'We knew we had a good conference because the media found it boring'

ing for scapegoats with delegates turning on the leadership, leadership candidates publicly contradicting each other amid massive financial problems.

"Then I thought, 'why do I need to worry about what happens in Brighton next week?'"

The punchline was apt for a conference that has refused to examine its own navel. There were no damaging recriminations over the election, mainly because the leadership and the

NEC deftly turned the attention on John Major and Norman Lamont.

John Smith later claimed that the conference had neither been embittered nor destructive because the delegates realised the election campaign had been vigorous and honest.

"Instead of being a debilitating conference it has been a launch pad to lead us to victory in the next election," he said.

Even Bryan Gould's resignation over Europe on Sunday was only a 24-hour irritation.

The quick dismissal of delegates' views reflected the dwindling weight of conference opinion. With the policy review group being set up in the next few months, this year effectively marks the end of policy making at conference.

Fiery performances by Denis Skinner and Arthur Scargill, condemning plans for pit closures, with a minor disturbance from Bill Jordan, president of the AEEU, proved merely an entertaining and nostalgic reminder of the more heated passion of previous conferences.

The leadership could hardly contain its relief that the party was still breathing, if dormant. Margaret Beckett said: "This week Labour has pulled together — next week the Tories will fall apart."

Conference sketch

Evolution outstrips party revolution

To a fluttering of red flags, with Union Jacks in each corner, John Smith yesterday hugged a baby and held hands with Margaret Beckett as the band played Auld Lang Syne. The baby burst into tears.

The best show in town? At the amusement complex beneath Blackpool Tower, they advertised "A Journey Through Time". Here, says the ad, we may see extinct monsters lurking through the swamp, thrill as giant lizards bare their teeth, and gasp as we watch a volcano erupt.

Before the closing session and rally at the Labour party's conference yesterday, I visited the tower and queued for this Journey Through Time.

It was well presented. A little train took riders on a corkscrewing track through a tunnel of exhibits. After the primeval swamp, came the lizards and the volcano; then monkeys, a missing link, and the "first man" — looking brutal in a cave.

There was a sabre-toothed tiger, and a hairy mammoth. Then we whizzed through all the ages of modern man and ended with astronauts in space suits. I returned to the Winter Gardens. How was the Labour party getting on?

If you want a graphic illustration of the evolution of man from the mud, then frankly I recommend the Labour conference: the primeval bits are more horrible and the lizards more lifelike. But be warned: it may put you off lunch. For a start, the sense of primitive menace is more immediate with John Prescott than the caveman. The sabre-toothed tiger was very fearsome, but not as fearsome as Margaret Beckett and Alan Taffin of the Union of Communication Workers has a brontosaurus quality which paper maché could never capture.

I shuddered at the reptiles from the swamp; but for shivers down the spine try a speech by Gerald Kaufman. The Tower's young astronaut was realistic, but Tony Blair is so incredibly modern that, placed in a tin foil suit and supplied with an intergalactic mobile phone, he would achieve weightlessness within seconds.

There is one respect in which the tower culture does score: it is intellectually coherent. Each era is placed in its proper compartment; you know where you are. At the

Labour conference all the eras are jumbled up. Charles from the past like Michael Foot hobble policy among yuppies in flowered ties. Trade union dinosaurs rub shoulders with New Labour astronauts. Both scenes from the 1930s, as hard-bitten extremists abuse outside, compete with smart-suited receptionists, business lobbyists and party glasses with champagne.

And there were two dinosaurs this week. They too, occurred at the wrong time — after the prehistoric age was supposed to be over. The history ended for so we were told) midweek, with the explosion of left-wing Dennis Skinner and Euro-sceptical Bryan Gould from the national executive committee — swept away, we were told, by a tide of modernism among delegates.

So what happened next? Gould made a blockbuster of a speech and the conference erupted into wild applause. But they had just kicked him out. Mr Skinner's speech was a volcanic eruption all on its own, spitting hot rocks and molten controversy all over his own shadow cabinet. Party bosses covered their heads as the conference roared its approval. Were we hurrying back into pre-history?

Cavemen Prescott was a huge hit, too, while astronaut Blair ("the yuppie lawyer" Mr Skinner called him) got a gingerly reception. Conference seemed to suffer from flashbacks.

The sensation was reinforced at around 2.30am yesterday, near the bar of the Imperial Hotel, when Labour's general secretary, Larry Whitty, joined partygoers at the piano for an impromptu recital of old-time hits by Tom Jones. Some seven hours later, a brass band from the Potteries serenaded John Smith as he waved from the platform: a moving, homespun finish, dating from an era well before the laser-age glitz with which Labour gift-wrapped its leader last year.

Back into the future. Where to? Where from? Passengers on Labour's train this week have hardly been agreed. But they like their new conductor. They are enjoying the journey through time.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Herbicide treats rare child disease

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A CHEMICAL developed by ICI as a herbicide has turned out to be effective in treating a rare inherited disease in children.

A team in Stockholm has used nitro-trifluoromethylbenzoyl-cyclohexanedione (NTBC) to prolong the lives of nine infants suffering from a metabolic disorder that usually leads to liver failure and death before they are 20.

NTBC was invented by ICI Agrochemicals in Richmond, California, which hoped it would prove a profitable weedkiller. Samples were sent to ICI's Central Toxicology Laboratory in Macclesfield, Cheshire, where Dr Edward Lock and colleagues discovered in animal experiments that it had an effect on the metabolism of tyrosine, the amino acid.

Seeking a pure form of a human enzyme to continue the experiments, Dr Lock scanned the scientific literature and found that Professor Sven Lindstedt, of Sahlgren's Hospital at Gothenburg Univ-

ersity, in Sweden, had isolated it while studying tyrosinemia, a hereditary disease. He called Professor Lindstedt, who said that NTBC might be worth trying as a drug.

In this week's issue of *The Lancet*, they report their results. The effect of NTBC is to break a metabolic pathway which, in tyrosinemia patients, has gone wrong and produces excessive amounts of compounds damaging to the liver. Cirrhosis or liver cancer are the usual consequences and most seriously affected children live no longer than a year. Milder cases might live into their teens.

In the five patients described in *The Lancet*, all showed clear improvements. One, with the acute form of the disease, was still alive after nine months. The others, with the less acute form, showed better liver function. ICI Agrochemicals is continuing to supply the herbicide and is collaborating with Professor Lindstedt to find ways to make it available to all sufferers.

Forgotten genre hits the heights at auction

By JOHN SHAW

Purple prose — "Emma used men as playthings... then one day a guy named Lew taught her a new game" — and fantasy artwork brought unexpectedly high prices when a forgotten aspect of 1940s culture came under the hammer in London yesterday.

A collection of 39 lurid covers for spicy French romantic novels and gangster paperbacks with titles such as *Daughters of Shame*, *Bought Love*, *The Lady Says No* and *Sister Move Over*, had been estimated to make between £4,000 and £6,000 — but collectors paid £26,829 at Christie's in South Kensington.

The books were published mainly by Kaye, an imprint based in Holborn, whose heyday was from 1949-54. The firm's progress was curtailed when the books were ruled at the Old Bailey to have been obscene.

Bernard and Alfred Kaye were jailed and two of their authors were heavily fined. But Leonard Percy Card, the artist responsible for many of the covers, was acquitted when it was established that his work was submitted before the books were written.

entertainments, many halls will need reviving under the new rules. The buildings must conform to the regulations of the European Community under the new Food Safety Act and, if used regularly for food demonstrations and cooking, registered. It would be against the rules to prepare food and sell it in a non-registered hall.

The traditional character of village life already has been eroded by the demise of the local post office and village store and the money to re-



Unrefined ladies: two of the covers that were snapped up yesterday

He drew for Hank Janson, one of the genre's most famous authors. This was a pseudonym for Steve Francis, a former communist and conscientious objector who had gone to live in Spain. Francis was also thought to have been Ace Capelli.

Matt Forrest, 36, a television commercial director, spent more than £20,000 and said afterwards that the appeal of the material was that it was a mixture "of the superb and the crass".

"These covers have tremendous visual appeal," he said. "I've got 50 hanging on the walls of my home. You

could say it's wall-to-wall sleaze but at the same time they're very evocative of a certain post-war style. The stuff inside is tamer than Mills and Boon now."

Steve Chibnall, a lecturer in media studies at Leicester Polytechnic, which has recently been given university status, spent just over £1,000 on *This Man Is Death* by Ace Capelli. He has a collection of between 15,000 and 20,000 period paperbacks he trades with called *The Pulp Archive*.

A collectors' convention is to be held at the Grosvenor Hotel in London on October

10. A main guest will be Denis McLaughlin, 73, from Bolton, Greater Manchester, one of the top artists from the period who now draws for children's comics.

An Edison kinoscope, the first practical cinema projector and one of 12 believed to survive from 1894, fetched a record £21,450 (estimated £5,000-£6,000) at Sotheby's in London. A Powell and Lealand compound molecular microscope dated 1842 also set a new auction record when it made £22,000.

Grants throw a lifeline to halls and villages

By LYN JENKINS

THAT quintessential feature of the British rural tradition, the village hall, has been saved by an injection of cash.

Grants from the Rural Development Commission will enable village halls in communities with fewer than 3,000 people to meet standards demanded by new legislation. Many were in danger of closing or having activities severely restricted.

To be licensed for public

store and the money to re-

The new grants, which will pay between 25 per cent and 40 per cent of necessary improvement costs where they exceed £1,000, are discretionary. The hall must have, or be eligible for, charitable status and be the village's main community building.

The maximum grant available is £10,000.

Lord Shuttleworth, chairman of the commission, said:

"The village hall is an essential component of village life. As well as the traditional range of social and leisure activities, many village halls now provide luncheon clubs for the elderly, drop in centres for the unemployed, crèches, and are increasingly being used for clinics, surgeries, libraries, post offices and shops."

The new laws demand in many cases new floor and wall coverings, improved ventilation and better lavatories.

Rubens reappears after 150 years

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTIE'S is to sell a striking Rubens portrait of a woman that has been missing for more than 150 years.

But the company refuses to disclose the identity of the owner who stands to make up to £1.5 million from it. Not even Professor Michael Jaffé, the Rubens expert who was called in to view the painting last week, has been told.

The *Portrait of Madame de Vieg*, complete with lavish multi-layered neck ruff, was last seen in public at Christie's in May 1848. Then, it was sold by one "William Wells Esq of Redleaf" for 205 guineas, to a predecessor of the present owner, as Christie's coyly says.

Its companion, a *Portrait of Henri de Vieg, Ambassador to the Archduchess Isabella, Sovereign of Seventeen Provinces, to the French King Louis XIII*, was bought by the Louvre in Paris, who showed sexist tendencies in choosing the man but not his wife.

"The existence of the wife's portrait has always been pre-

sumed because of the existence of the portrait of the husband in the Louvre," Professor Jaffé said last night, "but nobody knew whether it still existed, or had been destroyed."

His definitive book on Rubens includes an image of the dashing bearded Henri, with a gap for his wife.

Having seen the portrait for the first time last week, Professor Jaffé says that he finds it "a splendid thing... she has a wonderful complexion and I think Rubens has rendered it with great taste and feeling. It is in superb condition."

At the same sale on December 11, Christie's hope to raise up to £6.5 million with the finest work by the Dutch seventeenth century painter Pieter de Hooch to come on the market for a generation.

The painting, *The Court-*

yard of a House in Delft

has been on loan over the past 25 years to the National Gallery of Scotland, the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Treasury Houses exhibition in Washington.

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Buccaneering king of Fiat secures his dynasty's future



Agnelli: economic views make the headlines

GIANNI Agnelli's decision to step down by 1994 as chairman of the Fiat car company will not erode his immense power in Italy, but has left Italians wondering who ultimately will succeed him as head of his clan.

Even before confirming his intention to shareholders this week, "L'Avvocato" (the lawyer), or "Il Re" (the King), as Signor Agnelli, 71, is known, said he would pass the chair to his younger brother Umberto. However, Signor Agnelli will continue to run his vast empire as long as he is able to, insiders say. His interests have expanded beyond car production into many fields, such as newspaper publishing (including control of the *Corriere della Sera* and *La Stampa*),

Abandoning the chairmanship has been seen as a shrewd move, writes John Phillips from Rome

insurance, banking, chemicals, textiles, missile technology and munitions, mineral water and beer.

After he formally hands over the running of Fiat, Signor Agnelli will remain head of the family holding company which controls Fiat. In 1987 he strengthened personal and family control of the Turin group by creating a new family company, a "family safe" that is a form of limited partnership. It brought together 76 per cent of Agnelli family holdings.

Signor Agnelli is undisputed head of his clan. Strategic decisions on Fiat are unthinkable without his approval. He long ago delegated day-to-day management to the chief executive of Fiat, Cesare Romiti. But the succession has troubled Signor Agnelli for a decade. His restless son Edoardo has shown more interest in eastern philosophy than producing cars.

Umberto will remain Fiat chairman for perhaps a decade. It is assumed that Giovanni Agnelli, son of Um-

berto, will subsequently assume control of the dynasty.

Giovanni, 28, is a popular figure who did his military service as a private in a parachute regiment of the Carabinieri paramilitary police. His training included six months on a Fiat assembly line, under a pseudonym. He has travelled widely in Asia, considered an important future market for Fiat. He is managing director of the Motovespa scooter company in Madrid.

In 1986 Edoardo Agnelli, then 32, caused a storm by attacking those who construed his private pursuits as a lack of interest in the group. He denounced those who suggested "that I am incapable of assuming my responsibility". Three weeks later Signor Romiti said: "Edoardo has no role in any part of Fiat."

Confirmation of the change at the top of Fiat not only reflects Signor Agnelli's age, but also his past through a turbulent period of questions are being asked about one man wielding so much power.

The corruption scandal that has bedeviled Italian politicians and businessmen in Milan has not left the Fiat image unscathed. A judge is investigating the alleged involvement of executives of a Fiat-controlled construction firm. This week Signor Romiti declared: "The matters that have involved many politicians and entrepreneurs, reaching even a group of our size, have shown

how difficult is the defence of ethical principles. As a citizen and an entrepreneur, one cannot but feel ashamed."

Signor Agnelli has always scorned formal politics. But his pronouncements on economic policy make headlines. His status as a national patriarch is such that he is viewed as part of the Italian establishment. Less prominence may help deflect potential criticism from a disillusioned public.

Abandoning the Fiat chairmanship is also a shrewd move as a single European market approaches. European unity is bound to lead to pressure from Brussels for Italy to bring its anti-monopoly legislation in line with other EC countries.

In 1935 Signor Agnelli

inherited the Fiat dynasty at the age of 14 after his father Edoardo died in an air crash. He took over the chairmanship in 1960. The group's business methods were frequently seen as unorthodox. In 1965 (as managing director) Signor Agnelli penetrated the East European market ahead of competitors by constructing in the Soviet Union a factory making the Lada car. In 1977 he made a deal giving Libya a 9.6 per cent interest in Fiat: the Libyan stake was bought out in 1986.

Signor Agnelli has moved to assure the future of his dynasty with the same single-mindedness he deploys in business. Will anyone in the Italy of the future be able to match his brand of buccaneering charm?

US and Turkey seek to limit damage of sea missile accident

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ANKARA AND MICHAEL EVANS IN BIELEFELD

TURKEY and the United States spent yesterday patching the damage to relations after joint Nato manoeuvres in the Eastern Aegean went tragically wrong and the aircraft carrier, *Saratoga*, fired two anti-aircraft missiles by mistake, one of which hit a Turkish destroyer, the *Muavenet*, killing its commanding officer and four crew. Fifteen others were reported injured.

The Turkish and American military yesterday launched an immediate investigation to discover why the two Sea Sparrow missiles were set off at all, let alone at midnight when no shooting exercises were taking place. A brief statement by the Turkish chief of staff described the affair as an accident.

The State Department yesterday hastened to express its regret. A message conveyed to

the Turkish ambassador in Washington spoke of American "agony" over what happened. The Turkish government will be anxious to restore public faith in Nato. Yesterday, Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish prime minister, called for patience as he attempted to play down the accident, and promised there would be a full and immediate explanation.

One of Turkey's fears, since the ending of the Cold war, is that both the role of the organisation and Turkey's importance in it would diminish. Ankara is particularly concerned that responsibility for European defence should not devolve to the Western European Union, of which, unlike Greece, it has not been offered full membership.

While Turkey is concerned over the long-term future of the alliance on its western

flank, a segment of public opinion is worried about the fruits of co-operation in the southeast of the country. In words uttered while in opposition that may have haunted him yesterday, Mr Demirel accused the previous government of turning Turkey into "the USS *Saratoga*" — simply an aircraft carrier serving other interests. His government later renewed the mandate of Operation Provide Comfort, whereby allied planes give cover for a *de facto* Kurdish entity in northern Iraq. That mandate must be renewed at the end of this year.

Yesterday, the real *Saratoga* was back in action as Display Determination, codename for the military exercises, went ahead. The *Muavenet* returned without aid to Izmir, 80 miles away. The ship appears to have escaped serious damage. A fire on the bridge was contained with help from the landing craft, the USS *Two Jima* and crew from the *Saratoga*.

A Pentagon spokeswoman, Major Katherine Ingram, said one missile hit the bridge of the *Muavenet*. Fire broke out but was extinguished in 15 minutes, she said. The two ships were about three miles apart when the missiles were fired accidentally.

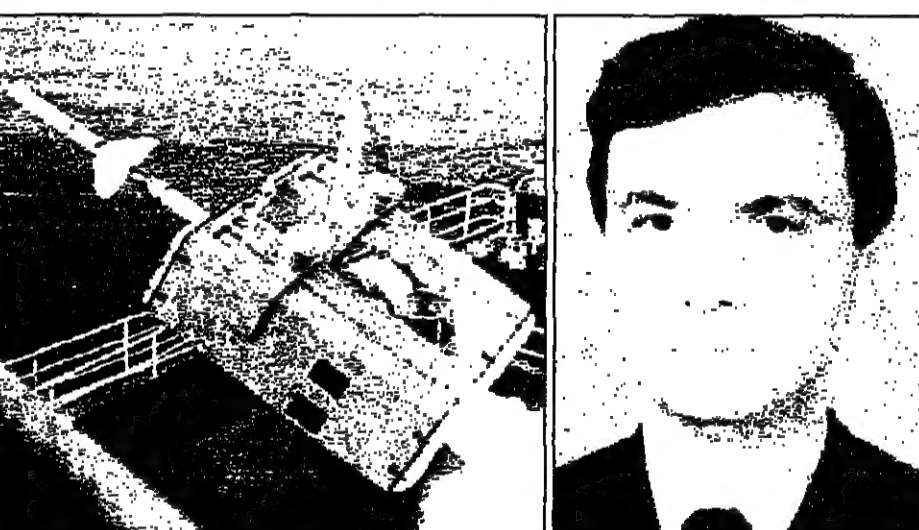
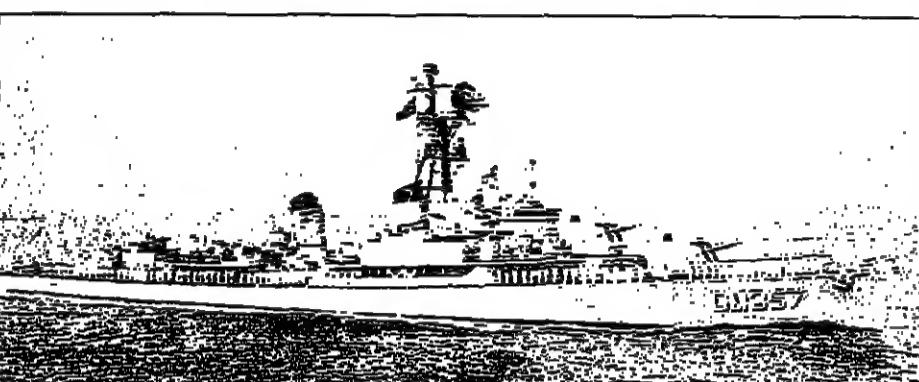
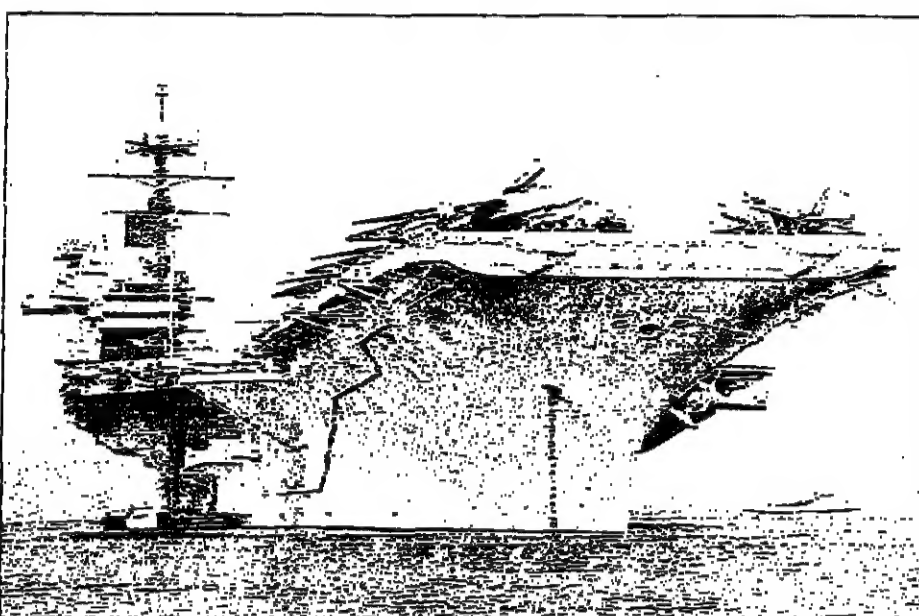
Early reports had put the number of dead at nine, but a spokesman at the European headquarters of the US Navy, in London, said that figure — based on information from Turkish authorities — had been revised to five. Two seriously injured sailors were taken by helicopter to the *Two Jima*, an amphibious attack ship participating in the exercise, while the other injured were flown to Izmir, according to a Turkish foreign ministry official.

General John Shalikashvili, the American supreme allied commander Europe, said in Bielefeld, Germany, that he wanted to express his "deep regret" at the tragedy, and on behalf of the United States offered his apologies and sympathy to the families of the victims. He said: "We will do everything in our power to assure an open, quick and full investigation into this matter."

A naval board of enquiry had been formed and an investigating officer was now at the scene. General Shalikashvili said that he had only limited details of the incident, but confirmed that two Sea Sparrow missiles fired from the *Saratoga* had hit the *Muavenet*.

Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, also in Bielefeld, said he was "deeply saddened" by the incident and offered his regrets and sympathy to the families.

Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, also in Bielefeld, said he was "deeply saddened" by the incident and offered his regrets and sympathy to the families.



Elements of tragedy: the USS *Saratoga*, top, which fired two Sparrow missiles at the Turkish destroyer *Muavenet*, shown in the centre. The missile, from the same family as that shown bottom left, killed Captain Kudret Gungor, bottom right, and four crew

Truth gives way to fantasy and horror in Yugoslav media war

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

SEVERED heads, prisoners burnt to death on spits and women being kept in a special detention centre to bear their rapists' babies: as if the truth were not bad enough, such stories, all of which have appeared this week in the media of the former Yugoslav republics, are the daily fare of war by other means. Mixing truth, fantasy and horror, the war is justified by the most horrendous of claims, few of which can ever be verified.

The Bosnian government's War Crimes Commission says that a pattern of systematic rapes of Muslim girls by Serb men has emerged across Serb-held territory. One unnamed witness told a Western news agency that she had been imprisoned for five months with 20 other girls after being raped. She said: "They said, 'You won't be delivering a Muslim, you will be delivering a Serb. We will keep you long enough so you won't be able to have an abortion.'"

Ilija Ekmečić, an official of the Bosnian Serb "foreign

ministry", scoffed at the report. "Whatever they claim is what they themselves are doing. We had 100 girls aged from ten years old and up and they were four months pregnant. They were Serbian girls slaves from Sarajevo prisons."

Mr Ekmečić said he too wondered why the girls had not been presented to the Western media as they would make good propaganda. And therein, of course, is the rub. Over the past week, Serbian television and newspapers have been full of pictures of a grinning man of Middle Eastern appearance holding a severed head by the hair. Another picture shows a box with two more heads, yet another a headless corpse. Allegedly they are pictures of Serb victims captured from Muslim forces. It is impossible to know if they are genuine. The message tells Serbs that the Mujahidin are on their doorstep and that this fate awaits all who underestimate the *jihad* being waged against them. Another story put out by

a news agency claimed that Turkish fighters were settling "ethnically cleansed" Serb villages and Serb girls were being forced to marry them. This week television has shown the bloated and burnt bodies of Serbs, allegedly massacred by Muslims in eastern Bosnia. Certainly they died horrible deaths but most foreign news organisations shy away from reporting that "according to pathologists" two of the victims were "spit barbecued" — a traditional Balkan wartime barbarity.

The propaganda war is vicious. Last year a world news agency suffered a severe blow to its credibility, when it reported that Croat forces had murdered 41 Serb children before retreating from Vukovar. The story was untrue. Whenever foreign correspondents are out in the field, they are constantly fed outlandish horror stories. Ninety-nine out of 100 people who tell you such tales have only heard about the horror rather than seen it.

Yeltsin begins auction of land

FROM ANNE McELROY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin made his most determined swipe at decades of bureaucracy yesterday by axing two ministries, dozens of committees and instituting a pilot auction of land in an attempt to give impetus to his troubled reform programme.

The closure of the industry and architecture ministries and committees dealing with everything from soldier's welfare to demography is intended to release the stranglehold of former Soviet bodies on government and underline that, despite criticism and setbacks, Mr Yeltsin remains a radical reformer. In the preface to his decree, Mr Yeltsin spoke of the need for "a more rational government structure" that would decentralise power and give "more autonomy to regional authorities to carry out reforms."

The land experiment, to be conducted on plots in the Ramensky region south of Moscow, is intended to establish a market price for land and introduce the public to the smashing of the last communist taboo on ownership. The right to buy land is still viewed by many Russians with suspicion and, although enshrined in the constitution last year, was restricted by a ten-year moratorium on sales.

The government hopes that private building can be encouraged to alleviate the housing shortage and that the experiment will lessen distrust of privatisation. Mr Yeltsin's advisers are hinting that there may be a referendum on liberalisation of land ownership to bypass conservative parliamentary opposition.

This has been a heady week for Russian capitalism, albeit dogged by hallmarks of the *ancien régime*. The distribution to all citizens of a 10,000 rouble (£18) voucher share in former Soviet state assets continued sluggishly yesterday after a first day dogged by shortages, lack of information and caution verging on indifference.

The idea is to give Russia a large middle class that will develop an understanding of the market economy, as distinct from the present, politically dangerous division into a passive work force and aggressive, often unscrupulous, entrepreneurs. But the scheme is open to criticism in that the vouchers are likely to become the objects of embezzlement or extortion.

Back in action: Martin Bell, the BBC reporter who was injured in Yugoslavia, in front of the cameras yesterday for the first time since his injury, covering the inauguration of the Nato Rapid Reaction Corps in Bielefeld, Germany. Bell was wounded by shrapnel during a mortar attack in Sarajevo just five weeks ago.

Romania acquires Wacko tastes

FROM NICHOLAS WATT IN BUCHAREST

Anyone in Bucharest with an image worth cultivating could not afford to miss the Michael Jackson concert on Thursday night. Romania's new glitterati rubbed shoulders with Theodor Stolojan, the prime minister, dripping with jewellery and flaunting their fur coats.

Since Jackson announced that he would bring his European *Dangerous* tour to Bucharest, Romanians had talked of little else. The concert even impinged on last week-end's election.

More than 65,000 fans packed into the national football stadium where 15,000 armed troops and police were deployed, most of them bussed in from around the country. Soldiers gazed from the top of the stadium and squeezed into the aisles to catch a glimpse of the singer.

Before he appeared fans did their best to imitate the Mexican wave, standing on the wooden seats and applauding in a ripple round the stadium. Thousands more danced and sang on the pitch. When Jackson finally appeared they cheered and waved candles as he moonwalked through a string of songs.

For the VIPs, displaying their official Michael Jackson VIP badges, it was a rather gentler experience. Policewomen, heavily made up and mini-skirted, ushered them through the ornate directors section to their seats. Regulation Pepsi was served and canopies were passed around.

Mr Stolojan, accompanied by his wife and son, smiled and nodded his way through the concert. "It is unbelievable that Michael Jackson is in Romania," he said. "This is the most important thing for Romanians."

If anyone had forgotten that Romania is still in the throes of a presidential election, the opposition candidate wasted little time in reminding the crowd. Dressed in a denim jacket Emil Constantinescu, who arrived to cheers, spent half an hour signing autographs. President Iliescu, his opponent, was booed.



Back in action: Martin Bell, the BBC reporter who was injured in Yugoslavia, in front of the cameras yesterday for the first time since his injury, covering the inauguration of the Nato Rapid Reaction Corps in Bielefeld, Germany. Bell was wounded by shrapnel during a mortar attack in Sarajevo just five weeks ago.

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▼ The Volvo estate isn't the kind of car you have to leave at home when you're going to work. Despite its practicality, the estate has a refined look and feel. It drives as smoothly as one

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ABS brakes, for instance, are standard on all 940 models, while the 960 automatic also has a 'winter mode' that modifies the gear changes for snow and ice.

Not surprisingly, the latest report on Injury, Accident & Casualty Rates* prompted The Guardian to highlight the Volvo as the "best pick of the large cars."



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Perot bounces back to savage Bush in Rockies stronghold

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN DENVER



AT Ross Perot's smart headquarters in a modern Denver office block supporters shrieked and cried and slapped each other's backs when their man announced his candidacy on Thursday. A couple of miles away at the considerably dingier headquarters of the Bush campaign the pleasure was scarcely less.

An hour after the announcement, Michael Hesse, Mr Bush's state director, explained that while Bill Clinton led President Bush by a half dozen points in the Rocky Mountain state his support was soft. The Texan billionaire could siphon off enough to eliminate that lead. "This really levels the playing field," he enthused. "It has thrown the cards up in the air." It had, but not in the manner he had hoped.

At the Clinton headquarters Fred Duval, Mr Hesse's opposite number, concurred with the Republican's analysis, though with hardly the same enthusiasm. "We were crushed," he lamented. "We were on a confident glidepath to a two-way victory. Now we have to start everything all over again." But at that moment Mr Duval was summoned next door to watch the local evening news on Chan-

nel Four, including the latest statewide poll.

The figures were astonishing. Mr Perot was re-entering the race with 18 per cent support. Mr Bush had dropped 12 points to 25, but Mr Clinton had fallen by just one to 44. If remotely accurate, the poll directly challenged the conventional wisdom that Mr Perot's candidacy would help the president by splitting the anti-Bush vote. It suggested that Mr Perot would take many more votes from Mr Bush than Mr Clinton, putting the Democrat on course for a resounding victory in a state that is one of this year's main battlegrounds.

Back in his office, Mr Duval confided the results of the Democrats' private polling in Colorado over the past month. They showed Mr Perot's re-entry would widen Mr Clinton's lead from 11 to 13

points. He had been disinclined to trust them, he said. His instincts told him he should be "running scared" at Mr Perot's re-entry.

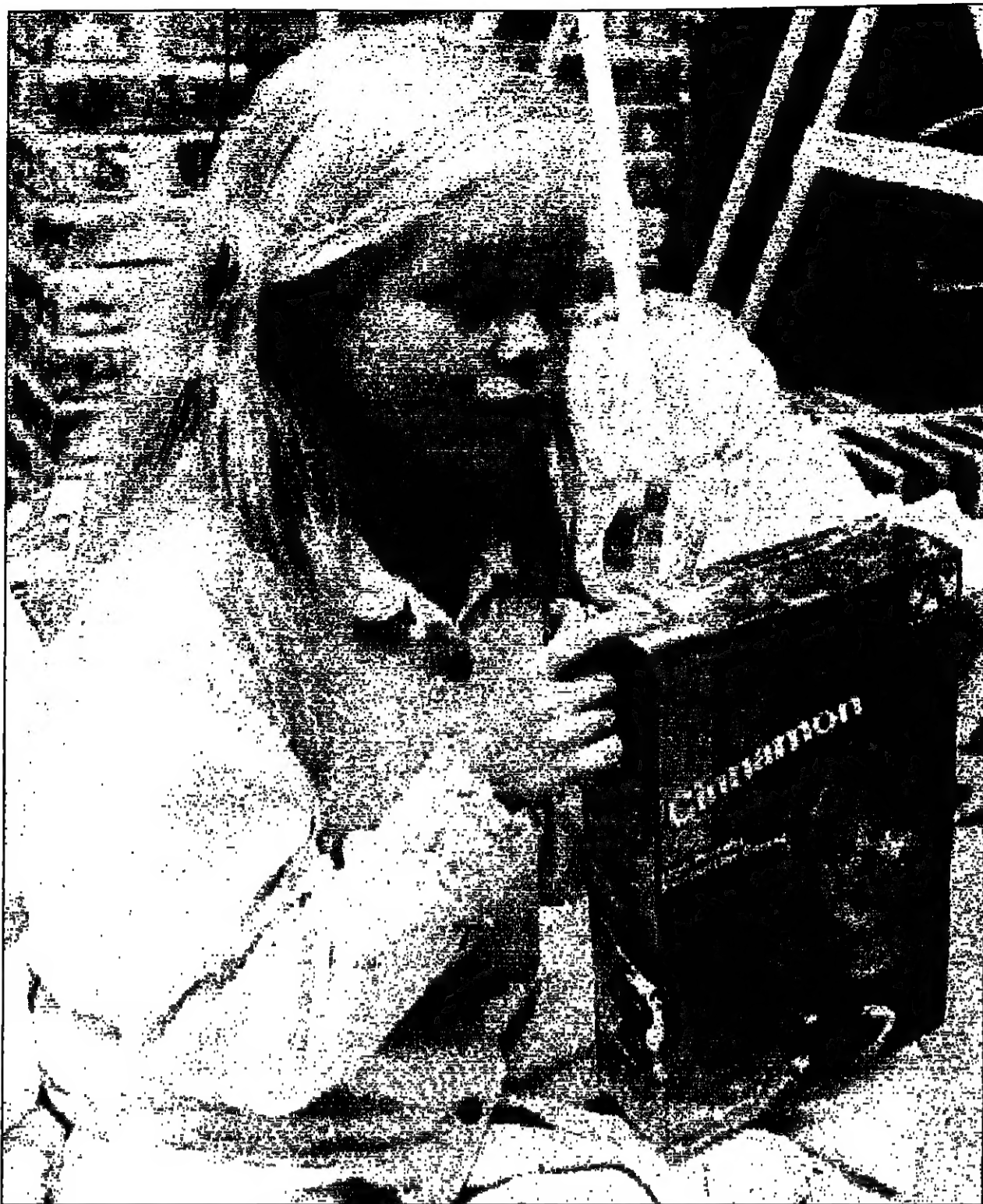
The Channel Four poll could yet prove a one-off, and Mr Hesse may yet be vindicated, but Mr Clinton has nonetheless made remarkable inroads in a state that last backed a Democrat in 1964. In March he lost the Democratic primary here to Jerry Brown. By early summer he was trailing a distant third behind Mr Perot, in first place, and Mr Bush. When Mr Perot dropped out in July his supporters divided two to one in Mr Clinton's favour, not because they liked Mr Clinton but because they disliked Mr Bush even more. Since then he has gone from strength to strength, boosted by a successful party convention and his selection of Al Gore, an ardent environmentalist, as running mate.

The Democrats have now raised more money per capita in Colorado than anywhere except Arkansas, where Mr Clinton is governor. They have upgraded it from a place to stretch Republican resources to a genuine battleground state. Mr Clinton recently addressed a Denver rally of 30,000 people, the state's biggest political turnout since Harry Truman came in 1948. The campaign has been "as close to picture perfect as I could have imagined," said Mr Duval.

There were good reasons to believe Mr Clinton's supporters were primarily anti-Bush and susceptible to a renewed Perot candidacy, but in fact they have "sort of solidified," said Bob Drake, a Colorado pollster. For Mr Clinton, Mr Perot's re-entry may paradoxically prove less dangerous in Colorado than the prospect of Mr Perot now fading, sending Republicans back to Mr Bush just before election day.

● **Anderson backing:** The former Beirut hostage and Middle East correspondent Terry Anderson announced yesterday that he was resigning from the Associated Press and endorsing Mr Clinton.

Mr Anderson was freed last December after nearly seven years as a captive in Lebanon. He has been on leave from his



Power of one: Adriane Caggiano, an aspiring actress who modelled for a cereal product, can count herself as one of the people who persuaded Ross Perot to return to the election fray (Jamie Dettmer writes from Wash-

ington). She wrote to the Dallas billionaire urging him to stand again. In her letter, the girl from rural Augusta, Kansas, said: "I am nine years old, almost ten. I wish you would really run for president and I wish I could

vote." After reading from her letter, Mr Perot urged journalists to "take a look at this little girl and her sisters, and you'll say whatever it takes we've got to do it, we've got to pass on the American dream to them."

Georgian bastion captured

Moscow: Rebel forces captured the Georgian government stronghold of Gagra in the breakaway region of Abkhazia yesterday, the government press office said. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, suspended a meeting of the ruling State Council and set off for the front line.

Local journalists quoted the State Council press office as saying that Abkhazian fighters had captured Gagra, the main town of northern Abkhazia, after almost 24 hours of fierce fighting. Earlier, government forces bombed Abkhazian gunmen and allied tribesmen from southern Russia outside Gagra, using planes for the first time in the six-week conflict. (Reuters)

Nato corps launched

Bielefeld: Nato yesterday launched its flagship for the future, the 12-nation Rapid Reaction Corps (Michael Evans writes). Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, described the new force as the centrepiece of the alliance's changed military posture, capable of confronting every kind of security threat.

He predicted that parts of the corps could be used in peacekeeping operations under the mandate of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe outside Nato territory.

Kept at home

Moscow: Russia has barred the former Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, from leaving the country until he appears at a court hearing on the fate of the banned Communist party, of which he was once the general secretary. Tass reported. (Reuters)

Rome riots

Rome: Police fought running battles with left-wing militants in the streets of Rome as strikes over the government's austere economic policy, including heavy spending cuts, crippled Italy's public services. (Reuters)

President leads

Las Vegas: President dos Santos had about 60 per cent of the vote on the second day of counting in Angola's first general election. Jonas Savimbi, the UNITA leader, with 35 per cent, is thought likely to make up ground.

Tokyo attack

Tokyo: Rockets were fired at the home here of Sohei Miyashita, the Japanese defence minister. Security for government figures and installations was intensified. Mr Miyashita and his family were not injured. (Reuters)

Tamil toll

Colombo: Intense fighting between Sri Lankan security forces and Tamil separatists has left dead 71 military personnel, more than 100 guerrillas and 15 civilians in the past ten days in the Northern and Eastern provinces of the island.

Villagers killed

Bitlis: Kurdish rebels massacred most of the inhabitants of the remote Turkish village of Cevizdali and only three elderly men escaped unhurt, officials said. The toll rose to 55 as many of the wounded died in hospital. (Reuters)

Sport could steal the debate show

FROM DAVID ESPO IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush and Bill Clinton will hold three high-stakes debates between October 11 and 19 under a tentative schedule worked out by aides, a source familiar with the talks said yesterday. Ross Perot will be invited to participate.

The source also said that the schedule envisions one debate involving Vice-President Dan Quayle; his Democratic rival, Senator Al Gore; and Mr Perot's ticket-mate, retired Admiral James Stockdale.

Details of the encounters remain to be negotiated, the source said, including the sites, sponsorship, audiences, and precise times. But under the proposed timetable each of the debates seemed likely to conflict with an important sporting event, either post-season baseball games or the National Football League's Monday night football.

Mr Clinton holds a double-digit lead in the polls, but the prospect of a condensed debate schedule — along with Mr Perot's formal entry into the race and a three-way multi-million-dollar advertising war — sets the stage for a tumultuous final month of campaigning.

The first debate, the source said, would be held tomorrow week, followed by a vice-presidential encounter, then two more presidential confrontations, the final one on October 19, the source said.

The details of the debate plan emerged as Mr Bush, in a television interview, hailed a slight decline in the jobless rate as "very good news". In its last monthly unemployment report before election day, the government announced that the rate edged down from 7.6

per cent to 7.5 per cent last month, and dropped in seven of 11 industrial states.

Economists disputed that interpretation, however. "The economy is still flat as a pancake," David Wyss, an economist at DRI-McGraw Hill in Lexington, Massachusetts, said. "The good news is that the recession ended in April 1991, but the bad news is that the recovery has not started yet."

The Democratic candidate, whose strategy is based on a pledge to revive the economy, had three campaign visits planned yesterday, and aides said he would emphasise his commitment to creating jobs.

The debate talks went on for parts of two days under a cloak of secrecy. Robert Teeter, the Bush campaign chairman, said that the talks would be concluded yesterday with an announcement today of the sites, dates and other details.

One of the debates will be chaired by a single moderator, a format favoured by Mr Clinton, one source said. Another debate will follow the format Mr Bush had sought, a panel of reporters questioning the candidates.

Having been on the defensive for weeks for his refusal to accept the single-moderator format, President Bush made an unexpected offer this week to debate with Governor Clinton on four successive Sundays, beginning tomorrow week. The Clinton camp opposed holding a debate on November 1, two days before the election. Mr Clinton's running mate, Mr Gore, said this week that an 11th-hour debate would leave little time for each candidate to rebut fresh charges. (AP)



Gore: gave a boost to Democratic ticket

news agency, and yesterday addressed 200 executives at a meeting of the New England Newspaper Association. He said: "I think [Mr Clinton] has great ideas, and I think it's time for some of these fresh ideas."

Mr Anderson, 44, was asked whether he might enter politics himself. "It's an option and a possibility, and I've got a year to make up my mind," he replied. He has a year-long fellowship at Columbia University and is writing a book. (AP)

Liberal state falls to the anti-gay vote

LON Mabon keeps a bronze statuette of David and Goliath on his office desk in the suburbs of Portland — it is a fitting motif, in his own mind, for the battle he has waged against homosexuality for the past 20 years.

In the gay district of Portland, David and Goliath is also used as a motif, but with a rather different meaning. "Lon Mabon is a fascist," pronounces Rick, a self-proclaimed "serious homosexual", who wears a T-shirt depicting David and Goliath in a passionate embrace.

Rick the gay biker and Lon Mabon the anti-gay activist represent opposite poles in a bitter battle over homosexuality that is raging in Oregon, and which has coloured the wider political debate on American family values.

On November 3 citizens of Oregon will vote on the most stringent anti-homosexual measure ever proposed in a state: if it is passed, "Measure 9" would classify homosexuality as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse"; it would nullify laws forbidding discrimination against homosexuals and require the government to discourage homosexuality (together with sadism, masochism and paedophilia).

That Oregon, once considered one of the most liberal states in America, should have become the scene for an important offensive against gay rights is largely the work of Mr Mabon and the Oregon Citizens' Alliance, the conservative, anti-abortion, Christian lobby group of which he is the head.

Portland, Oregon is the scene for the most vitriolic attack yet in America on homosexuality, colouring the debate on family values, Ben Macintyre writes

In May Mr Mabon and the alliance successfully lobbied to persuade the Oregon town of Springfield to adopt a measure rescinding equal rights legislation for homosexuals, making it the first town in America to contain anti-gay language in its municipal charter; there are clear signs that their campaign to bring into force similar, but more radical measures on a statewide level will also succeed.

"If the vote was tomorrow, we'd win by a landslide," Mr Mabon claims. His resemblance to David Duke, the former Klu Klux Klan member who made an unsuccessful bid for office in Louisiana, is more than just physical. Both men have carved out

substantial constituencies (115,000 Oregonians signed the alliance petition to put Measure 9 on the November ballot) by appealing to what their critics say are voters' baser instincts: the views of both men have prompted threats of boycotts by out-of-state businesses. Both enjoyed considerable popularity despite the condemnation of almost every public body.

Mr Mabon is not running for office yet, and argues that Measure 9 is no more than an attempt to prevent homosexuals receiving special treatment. "Homosexuality is abnormal, unnatural and wrong," he says. "Discrimination against gays is not the same as racial or sexual discrimination. Homosexuality is an immoral choice made by individuals and there is no reason why it should be supported by the state."

Civil rights campaigners, women's groups and liberal opponents of the measure say, however, that it could be used to prevent public demonstrations by gay groups, to

remove gay literature from libraries and even to root out teachers or state employees who appear to promote homosexual lifestyles.

Both sides in the presidential race have sought political capital out of the issue of homosexuality. In the spring Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, told 600 gay and lesbian activists in Los Angeles: "I have a vision and you're part of it," and raised more than \$100,000 (£57,000) for Democratic coffers in a single evening. The gay vote, well-organised, influential, often wealthy and more than nine million strong, is being avidly courted by the Democrats.

The Republican campaign co-ordinators, by contrast, know that the only issue able to galvanise the conservative vote more effectively than abortion is homosexuality — of which Pat Buchanan's attack at the Republican convention was only the most vitriolic example.

But that strategy, and the publicity garnered by anti-gay activists like Mr Mabon, may have angered more voters than it has gained for the Republicans. Forty per cent of the gay vote opted for George Bush at the last election; far fewer are expected to do so this time.

SECTION

2

NEWS
REVIEW

Norman's conquest.

The first exclusive extracts from Schwarzkopf's autobiography. His many political and military battles. Starting this Sunday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
IS
THE SUNDAY PAPER

Kuwaitis hope for democracy in defiance of reluctant rulers



Emir of Kuwait: poll was forced on him

VOTING takes place on Monday in Kuwait's election, the democratic price its reluctant ruler was forced to pay for securing Western help to end Iraqi occupation.

A total of 278 male candidates are competing for the 50-seat parliament. The chamber was a pace-setter for criticism of the government until it was prematurely dissolved by the ruling al-Sabah family in 1986. Opposition leaders expect Western influence to prevent a repeat of such high-handedness.

With television access and parties banned, Kuwaitis have been flocking to thousands of Bedouin-style *dishiyas* (election tents) where the new

Bribery and intimidation are playing their part in the run-up to the election in the emirate on Monday, writes Christopher Walker from Kuwait City

appetite for democracy mingles with the traditional smells of lavish mutton banquets laid on by the candidates.

Hopefuls range from Islamic fundamentalists to one "alternative" candidate demanding the legalisation of alcohol. Many support votes for women and an extension of the tiny franchise of 81,400 citizens. Intimidation and the ubiquitous *wasta* (the local term for "influence") play their

part. The son of Sheikh Saad al-Abdallah al-Sabah, the crown prince and prime minister, has denied threatening a leading opposition candidate shortly after the liberation in February last year.

Another outspoken critic of the al-Sabahs, Hamad al-Jouan, who was elected in the last poll in 1985, now campaigns from a wheelchair after an assassination attempt. A year's jail is imposed for those



convicted of "defaming" opponents. Despite the openness that has sent shivers through the conservative Arab Gulf, Western governments are disappointed that democracy remains so limited. Before the Gulf war, there were hopes the

franchise would have been extended beyond the eligible 14 per cent: those males over 21 whose families can trace citizenship to 1920.

Campaigning takes place in the air-conditioned tents, some pitched in an area dubbed "Democracy Row". Closed-circuit television relays speeches to voters in flowing *dishdashas* while Asian servants ply them with cardamom-scented coffee. Voters contact each other on mobile telephones to pinpoint the best free banquet. Candidates who have tried to cut costs by serving cheaper camel meat have found attendances slumping. Others have contracted hotels as caterers for

the hospitality essential in a system where individual votes are being bought for up to 3,000 dinars (£1,500).

"It is the most important election since independence from Britain. The behaviour of our rulers before, during and after the war is under scrutiny," said Muhammad Sheikh, campaign manager for a leading anti-government candidate. "We want to know exactly what happened when Iraq invaded on August 2, 1990." The postwar trauma is evident. A soaring crime wave employing the huge unrecovered weapons caches is a central issue as is the fact that so many Kuwaitis fled from the Iraqi forces. "Unlike recent

elections in Jordan and Algeria, the fundamentalists are not expected to sweep the board," Mr Sheikh said. "The Muslim Brotherhood was tainted with being pro-Iraq and we hope that will reflect against its sympathisers."

Despite his hopes, the three fundamentalist groups are the best organised among the seven opposition alliances. They are competing against pro-government independents known cynically as "service candidates" because of their ability to secure favours.

The al-Sabahs are accused of corruption, wasting much of the prewar foreign assets totalling £52 billion and dithering over reconstruction.

Franco takes over from Collor and appoints cabinet

FROM MAC MARGOLIS IN BRASILIA

ITAMAR Franco, the Brazilian vice-president, took power as the acting head of state yesterday after President Collor de Mello was stripped of power.

Senhor Collor is facing a trial in the Senate for corruption and abuse of power on charges that he acquired millions of pounds in a vast influence peddling scheme. In a ceremony at the presidential palace, Senhor Collor, standing with his wife, Rosane, and his outgoing cabinet, signed a document suspending his power for six months while the trial takes place.

He released a statement saying: "I hand over the leadership of government to my legal substitute... with a clean conscience and a clean soul, with no sorrows weighing on my spirit, and holding to the full conviction that I have not lost the affection of the people and that they will again become confident when they know the truth."

Senhor Franco, 61, a former engineer, signed a document in a closed ceremony in a nearby annex assuming power as acting president. "This shows that Brazil can function democratically. We can give the country an ethical government and a transparent government," he said. Senhor Franco began naming cabinet ministers yesterday.

In theory, Senhor Collor could return to power if the Senate does not impeach him. However, the upper chamber, a redoubt of the opposition, is unlikely to reject the serious charges that face him, that he condoned corruption and pocketed millions of pounds from bribery and corruption. When he handed over the presidency to Senhor Franco yesterday, nobody expected that Senhor Collor would return to it.

In one of the biggest shows of civic spirit in the country's history, millions of Brazilians poured into the streets this week to mark Senhor Collor's fall. Yet, few of the placards and banners called for "Itamar". He remained untainted by the scandal, but he was seen until recently as faithful deputy to an arrogant and unloved leader.

The euphoria that swept

Senhor Collor from power is a mixed blessing for Senhor Franco. "Itamar has inherited a tremendous amount of social energy," said Ciro Gomes, governor of Ceara state and a key ally to the new administration. "He must act quickly in order not to frustrate expectations."

Expectations are enormous. The poor have the most urgent agenda. For them, "the logic of revolt against Collor is hunger. And hunger is the logic of today, not tomorrow," said Walder de Goes, a political scientist. "That creates a dangerous situation."

Despite a career in politics (two terms as mayor and 16 years in the Senate) Senhor Franco is a private man, who keeps counsel with a few loyal friends and has never been in the national spotlight. A divorced man of modest assets (two apartments and a country home), Senhor Franco has never been known to crave wealth or fame. To his friends, he is known for his honesty, rigid principles and integrity. His critics fault him for his quick temper, stubbornness and abrasive manner that have won him enemies. Though the clamour on the pavement is for new blood, many of his closest allies are political old-timers.

Senhor Franco has had an active but modest career. As a senator he proposed several laws and took part in a handful of special commissions, but was never known for "bright bills or... remarkable speeches," according to Alexandre de Barros, a political risk analyst. Senhor Franco's



Franco: nationalism feared by business

track record of nationalist views and policies worry businessmen and centrist politicians, who are the majority. As a senator he took a hard line against foreign capital, called for a moratorium on foreign debt and blasted the government for heeling before the "dictates of the International Monetary Fund".

Though he served a president who brashly overhauled the economy, slashing bureaucracy, selling off public companies and ending state business monopolies, Senhor Franco never seemed comfortable with Senhor Collor's agenda. That attitude has won him allies on the left, who resist privatisation and reduction of bureaucracy. However, the two parties that are likely to be the pillars of his government, the centre-left Brazilian Democratic Movement and the Social Democratic party, are committed to streamlining the state and an orthodox monetary policy.

Advisers to Senhor Franco say he may change the pace of economic reform, but will not scrap them. "There is no turning back," said Senhor de Goes. "The country has already experimented with all the other alternatives, and none of them worked."

ANC dismisses amnesty plans

Poor communication is slowing progress towards democracy, writes Michael Hamlyn in Johannesburg

A dialogue of the deaf appears to be developing between the South African government and the African National Congress, especially over an amnesty for prisoners.

The government is planning a brief session of parliament in a week's time and says it has told the ANC about the legislation it intends to bring forward. The ANC says it has not but from what the ANC has learned, it will regard the key measures as a nullity when it comes to power.

The measures include a constitutional change allowing the president to appoint anyone to his cabinet without the need for them to be elected to parliament. Officials see this as a way of opening the doors of power to leading figures in the liberation movement as part of a first-stage transitional government.

But Mac Maharaj of the ANC said yesterday that this would simply enable Mr de Klerk to appoint ministers who might under the present constitution be elected: that is, not blacks. In any case, Mr Maharaj said, members of the ANC would not be co-opted into the de Klerk government: transitional rule would have to be based on the results of an election.

The other bills, which would have enabled constitutional change by proclamation, will not be ready in time for this session, according to the constitutional development ministry. They will be delayed until the new session of parliament in January.

The prisoners described by the ANC as political who have been released since last week or who will be released before November 15 were in jail because they fought apartheid, according to the ANC. They had to be released in order

to clear the ground for the resumption of talks.

Pretoria says these were not political prisoners under any rules internationally recognised. They committed appalling crimes for a political motive. Some can be released, and some have been. Others have been sentenced to life imprisonment and have to be dealt with differently. They can be released on parole, but in order for the state to be wiped clean there would have to be a change in the law. That would also enable indemnity for people who have not yet been arrested, charged or convicted.

However, the ANC says the government is planning to forgive itself and its officials for the crimes of apartheid, and criminals should not be allowed to pardon themselves. Matthew Phosa, of the ANC's legal department, said yesterday: "We cannot stop them passing these laws, but we shall simply regard them as a nullity." He added: "We have told them about this."

The government evidently did not hear. "The government is still the government," said a senior official yesterday. "If it feels it is necessary, it will do it."

A *bosheraad*, or bush council, between the two sides is now likely to take place. The government wants the meeting to be held within the next few days, certainly before the parliamentary session. The ANC doubts whether it can be arranged this month.

Ball denied: The 76 hostel dwellers accused of involvement in the June 17 massacre of 45 people in Boipatong, the township near Johannesburg, were refused bail yesterday after the magistrate said the slaughter was "probably planned and did not happen spontaneously." (AFP)



Street scuffle: Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini, second left, tries to stop Jerusalem police arresting Arabs in a jail-conditions protest

Palestinians want the Greek out of Orthodox

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN JERUSALEM

IN THE narrow alleys and cobbled streets of Jerusalem's Christian quarter, one of the last outposts of the Byzantine Empire is preparing its defences in another battle for survival.

The cloistered offices and hidden gardens of the Greek Orthodox patriarchate may appear peaceful, but the monks, priests and bishops

who control the oldest and most powerful church in Jerusalem are facing one of the most insidious threats to their 1,800-year tenure.

The challenge does not come from the city's two rival religions or even the six other Christian denominations represented in Jerusalem, but instead from the very community which the church is supposed to be serving, its 40,000-strong Palestinian flock.

"We are fed up with being called Greek Orthodox and seeing our church controlled entirely by people who are unaccountable for their decisions," said Marwan Tubassi, a Christian from the West Bank town of Ramallah, whose call to "Arabise" the church in the Holy Land is gaining support among the Orthodox community.

The church, one of the largest property owners in the Holy Land, whose estates in-

clude the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and even the land on which the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, is built, has been accused of squandering its assets and neglecting its community.

"We see land being sold to the Israelis and the Greek bishops being driven around in luxury cars to their beautiful villas, and yet there is never any money when a church

roof needs fixing," said Mr Tubassi, who is to press his demand for church reforms at a conference in Jerusalem this month.

All the other denominations in Jerusalem, including the Anglicans and Catholics, have Palestinian leaders. For their part, the Greek Orthodox patriarchate does not have a single Arab bishop in its synod, and the last Arab patriarch ended his term in 1934.



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Clifford Longley

Theories of punishment rarely fit the crime

Public policy on the punishment of criminals is in a muddle, as the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, has pointedly remarked. The muddle lies behind the ambiguities of the Criminal Justice Act which came into force this week. Confusion in this area is hardly surprising. No society demolishes and rebuilds its criminal justice system afresh each generation: it inherits the one already existing and tinkers with it. Such a system becomes a conglomeration of past and present ideas, not all of which are apparent or consistent. So the roots of present-day penal policy lie in centuries of theorising about crime, sin, punishment and suffering. A government which changes the system for the purely pragmatic reason that keeping people in prison is expensive, which is more or less what inspired the new act, is walking across very thin ice.

The cause and cure of crime and sin is a venerable issue, nowadays usually encountered in a religious context. Is suffering good for the soul? Is revenge just or unjust? Can a good action redeem an evil one? Is there free will? Most of the answers in the past, if not today, have been drawn from various versions of Christianity. Even a secular society cannot ignore the origins of its penal code, least of all when it is trying to amend that code in a way that makes sense.

Most people feel as metaphysical about punishment today as they did in the Middle Ages. They feel, for example, that by his crime a criminal has disturbed the moral order of the universe, and must be made to restore the equilibrium by some sort of payment. He owes a debt. This is rather stronger than a mere metaphor. Many believe that that debt can sometimes only be paid with the criminal's life. This notion of an intrinsic moral debt seems to imply that human affairs have a presiding book-keeper, a supernatural referee like the recording angel of mythology.

The medieval penitential codes set out precise penances for each wrong, just as modern magistrates' courts have tariffs for motoring offences, and there was a corresponding list of virtuous actions which earned remission of time spent in purgatory. While modern churchmen shun such notions as embarrassingly primitive, the penal system still profoundly believes in them.

This is recognisably Catholic penitential territory, with 100 hours of community service as the modern equivalent to medieval public penance, and a £50 fine standing in for three Hail Marys. There is still faith, too, in the morally purifying effect of suffering, as in the doctrine of purgatory. Hence the logic of punishing a criminal is twofold. In the first place a criminal must suffer to atone for the suffering he inflicted on his victim, marching tear for tear; in the second, the suffering will make him a better person, as if manacles on his wrists will free him from the shackles of spiritual pride and so make him less likely to offend again.

The Puritan ethic of punishment did not so much replace the Catholic one as overlay it. It was no longer suffering as such — fasting and penance and so on — which remedied crime, as a regime which was devoid of pleasure but full of industry. These were judged the conditions most likely to lead to repentance and faith, hence to salvation. A place of punishment was to be frugal, clean and busy: the bread-and-water with hard labour which characterised the regime of the Victorian penal system. Neither of these religious ideas of redemption made the mistake of treating the criminal as subhuman. It was his potential for salvation which protected the prisoner's dignity.

But no longer does the prison system feel it has any official business with the state of men's souls. Modern prisons have corrupted the old religious wisdom by equating suffering with degradation, as if the peculiar anguish of a prisoner stripped of his identity, individuality and control over his own life is the only suffering that counts towards his sentence. On the contrary, that is the kind least likely to rehabilitate. Somebody who has been systematically treated as sub-human is likely to treat others that way. It is not surprising that modern prisons are often said to breed criminality. They have lost sight of the potential that suffering was once thought to have, for spiritual and moral purification. For suffering to do any good, there has also to be hope. In place of both, the modern prison system has put what the French mystic Simone Weil called affliction, an utterly negative experience akin to despair.

Simon Jenkins on his addiction to a radio channel broadcasting a concentrated diet of musical greats

Hooked, line and sonata

Now DON'T any of you tell me," bellowed the disc-jockey like a regimental sergeant major, "don't you tell me I didn't ENJOY that!" That, I believe, was a fragment from Schubert's Rosamunde.

"GREAT," he continued, "is the only word for THAT or I'm not an Irishman!" He then discussed a horse that was "dead cert" for the 2.30 at Cheltenham.

This is Classic-FM, the new culture with a vengeance. It is, I am told, already an addiction for many listeners and one I have to confess to sharing. I cannot yet kick the habit. For the past month the station has simply downloaded into the ether Robin Ray's "50,000 top classics", just about every piece of serious music written in a field of familiarity to it. Overlaying it is a constant banner of disc-jockeys.

Not for these breezy presenters Radio Three's stern tradition of the intolerant in pursuit of the inaudible. Beethoven's Fifth ("fantastic") splashes into Han-

del's ("terrific") Water Music, emerges into the *Trovatore* anvil chorus ("wow!") and on to Bruch's ("masterful") violin concerto. Announcers are often majestically all at sea. "That was the great Art-uro Toscanini with Lascar Heifetz," declared one... members presumably of the feared "Fingers" Paganini mob.

Every piece is "the world's most beautiful music", brought to air not by St Cecilia or the celestial muses but by "Time Magazine, which shares with the gods of Classic-FM a status as the world's greatest". Yet no sooner am I screaming and returning to Radio Three than along comes another old friend from whom I had not heard for years. I had forgotten just how good was Strauss's Emperor

waltz. For years I have avoided the mad scene from *Lucia*, on which I was once said, as I have avoided such old troopers as Beethoven's *Pastoral*, Handel's *Largo*, Chopin's nocturnes, Chabrier's *Espana*, Stravinsky's *Petrushka*.

All were firmly fixed in a Bermuda triangle, justly popular works from which I averted my ear for fear of familiarity turning them to saccharine. Now they are all returning, bombarding me with the ghosts of loves past. Here is the "really very talented Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart" with his little night music and over here the "very, very great Vladimir Horowitz" with "one of the best", Chopin.

We have grown so used to the Radio Three dame school and its rejection of Beecham's plea that

music penetrate the ear with facility and quit the memory with difficulty. Our hides are scarred by William Clock's knuckle sandwich, two lesser-known works by a familiar composer wrapped round a first-broadcast performance by an unknown.

We sat through interminable interviews with arts administrators moaning about their funding crisis as if it was acute. The BBC saw the Radio Three audience as a middle-aged couple sitting, Horlicks in hand, cat on lap, waiting patiently for the next overture-concerto-symphony concert as if they had nothing else to do. When the wavelenght's new controller, Nicholas Kenyon, recently discovered that some listeners tuned in on the move and wanted more accessible music, he quite

traumatised his staff. Let the Sierra-driving Tchaikovsky nuts buy cassettes, they said. The licence fee was not for enjoyment but for improving the soul.

Fiddler's prisoners are now released into light. This is not cultural evolution but revolution. Classic-FM is relentless. Even with intermittent listening, I must have heard Vivaldi's *Spring* and Don Giovanni's champagne aria half a dozen times last week and Alfredo's *Un di felice* almost daily. Even the richest fare can lead to indigestion. Familiarity can breed if not contempt at least a bad attack of "Nessun dorma" syndrome.

Radio Three has already hit back with a devastating barrage of hours of lesser-known works by famous composers at "drive-time" and a fusillade of funding

crisis spokespersons from Natalie Wheen. Fleeing the impetuous rendering of Mozart's second horn concerto during rush hour this week, I switched to try a nostalgic lullaby of the BBC whip for half an hour. Somebody from Scottish Opera was describing his funding crisis.

I suspect Classic-FM could bring a large new audience to enjoy classical music through the familiar repertoire, attracting them by noisy presentation and by repetition. In time, the repetition must begin to pall. I sense that only a few hundred of the "top 50,000" are getting an airing, and far too often. But this is all undeniably novel in Britain's artistic life, and comes with no by-your-leave from the Arts Council. It should liberate the masses from the cultural dictatorship of the BBC. Classic-FM has swallowed deep from Rossini's limous. "Take Beethoven twice a week. Haydn four times a week and Mozart every day." The only danger is of overdose.

Tennyson: a talent suppressed

The greatest work by the Victorian poet, who died 100 years ago, is lost to today's readers, writes John Grigg

As we indulge in the usual anniversary tributes to a great man, in this case Tennyson, we should give special thought to his masterpiece, *In Memoriam*, which is in some ways strangely neglected today. Among the major English poems with a religious or philosophical message, its treatment in our principal national anthology is almost perfunctory.

The *New Oxford Book of English Verse*, edited by Helen Gardner, gives the full text of Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner* (18 and a half pages), of Hopkins's *Wreck of the Deutschland* (nine pages) and of Eliot's *Waste Land* (11-and-a-half pages), not to mention one of the same author's *Four Quartets*. Little Gidding (seven pages). By contrast, only four-and-a-half pages are given to *In Memoriam*: eight cantos out of a total of 131, with many of the poem's most powerful passages omitted.

There is no need to complain of the favour shown to the Coleridge, Hopkins and Eliot works, all of which deserve it. But the case for according comparable space to *In Memoriam* seems overwhelming. Not only is it a magnificent poem, with much to say to our own and every age; it is also (a sufficient reason for extensive quotation) the outstanding representative poem of its own period, one of the most fruitful in our history. G.M. Young described it as "one of the cardinal documents of the mid-Victorian mind".

Tennyson had a considerable reputation before he published *In Memoriam* in 1850, but it was not until the publication of *Childe Harold*. As R.B. Martin, Tennyson's best biographer, says: "The poem was a triumph, both critical and popular, that is

almost without parallel." *In Memoriam* made him easily the most famous poet in England, and Dickens was the only literary man of any kind whose fame excelled his.

Within a few months the poem had sold more than twice as many copies as Wordsworth's *Prelude*, and Tennyson had succeeded the aged Wordsworth, who died earlier the same year, as poet laureate. His appointment was at least partly due to the impression *In Memoriam* made on the Prince Consort, who was the Queen's chief adviser on literary as on other matters.

Over the next 40-odd years of his life Tennyson wrote many good poems, including some of those written in his laureate capacity, such as the *Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington*. He also became in every sense a member of the establishment. After four times refusing a baronetcy, he accepted a peerage in 1884, the first English poet to be ennobled.

The image of Lord Tennyson, bearded laureate and upholder of the established order, has not been good for his posthumous reputation. In any case, he never again wrote anything to match *In Memoriam*, which for its range and intensity, as well as its sheer technical virtuosity, is in a class apart.

The poem is partly a love poem, partly a poem of nature, and partly a religious poem. Written over a period of 17 years, it has (in Eliot's words) "the unity and continuity of a diary, the concentrated diary of a man confessing himself".

Like Shelley's *Adonais*, it is about the author rather than the ostensible subject, Arthur Hallam, though Tennyson undoubtedly felt the loss of his young friend most deeply. He did not originally intend the poem to be



Honoured but unread: *In Memoriam*, a sensation in 1850, is omitted from anthologies

published, and never allowed his name to appear on the title page of any of his numerous editions. Yet from the first his authorship was an open secret.

Technically, the poem is an astonishing *tour de force*. Though he sometimes claimed to have invented the form in

which it is written (short quatrains on the ABBA pattern), there were, in fact, precedents in the work of Lord Herbert of Chesham and others. But never before had it been used for such a variety of purposes, ranging from the most exquisite lyricism to discussion of the human

predicament. Any fool can write passable heroic couplets, but one has only to try to write in the *In Memoriam* form to realise how difficult it is. Tennyson makes it seem easy.

The poem reflects a pre-Darwinian awareness of the theory of evolution. (*The Origin of the*

Species was published nine years later). The view of life that it presents holds out no rational hope for the individual:

Are God and Nature then at strife,
That Nature lends such evil dreams?
So careful of the type she seems,
So careless of the single life,
So heedful of the multitude,
That even types are scarcely less evanescent
than individual beings:
"So careful of the type?" but no,
From scarped cliff and quarried stone
She cries, "A thousand types are gone;
I care for nothing, all shall go."
Man, or at any rate Christian Man
... trusted God was love

And love Creation's final law
— Tho' Nature, red in tooth
And claw
With ravine, shrieked against his creed.

Yet ultimately, against all the odds, *In Memoriam* is a Christian poem, though the Christianity it proclaims is evolutionary, not transcendental. The well-known canto beginning "Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky," ends with the significant line "Ring in the Christ that is to be". And the poem itself ends by looking forward to "one far-off divine event, to which the whole creation moves". Note "the whole creation", not just the human race. (Incidentally none of the lines or verses quoted here appears in the *New Oxford Book of English Verse*.)

Verlaine told W.B. Yeats that he had tried to translate *In Memoriam*, but had found the task impossible, because Tennyson was "too noble" and "too English", and because he took refuge in reminiscences "when he should have been broken-hearted". Certainly he was thoroughly English, and Anglican, in his unwillingness to accept logical conclusions. His faith may be as wild as the bells and the sky, but it faces the known realities and is capable of working with the grain of science.



...and moreover PHILIP HOWARD

Economics has become the modern queen of the sciences, in the way that theology was in the Dark Ages. As medieval theologians managed to combine maximum certainty of correctitude with minimum agreement on the truth, so modern economists are brilliant at explaining why something should not happen before it does happen, and then after it has happened, wonderful at post-mortem, know-all explanation of why it should have happened. If all the economists were laid end to end in a letter to *The Times*, they would never come to an agreement in plain English, and it would not be a pretty sight.

Their problem is that, like the theologians, they pretend to be engaged in science, when in fact they are playing at mumbo jumbo, or at any rate one of the woollier humanities. The state of all economies is evidence of the unscientific nature of the bogus hocus pocus of economics. Here are some plain man's "parameters" of their latest jargon.

Fault-line as alleged by some to need repairing in the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. This metaphor is from geology. It means a dislocation in continuity of the strata. A fault-line is stronger than the normal strata, not more fragile, and cannot be repaired.

Variable geometry as aeronautical metaphor. To engineers it means a configuration of component parts that can be varied. The wing surface of a bat's wing, an elastic membrane of skin stretched between the

four long fingers, with at least 11 moveable joints in each wing, is an example of variable geometry. As usual, the economists are not agreed what they mean by this metaphor.

Chaos theory: a technical term of physics and mathematics. There are phenomena for which it is impossible to predict how the situation is going to develop when the starting conditions change only very slightly. For example, the uncertainty in spinning a coin, or the development of turbulence in a fast-flowing fluid. Fine pretentious and smart-arse journalists, chaos theory does not mean that a butterfly fluttering its wings in Peru can change the weather over London. Chaos theory is a convenient excuse for why the economists have got things wrong again, as usual. It is quite a good description of the activity of economics itself.

ERM and EMU: ERM is the common Teutonic and old English adjective meaning poor and needy, miserable and wretched. The EMU is a large, flightless Australian bird, having exposed blue skin on its neck and long brown-grey feathers on its back. The acronym is ju-jus around which economists dance, producing a hollow drumming sort of note, much like the ERM, but more discordant. The trendiest new definition of the ERM is "a fixed but floating, crawling peg system". Aquatic shove-halfpenny?

Quick doctors and teenage scribbles: terms of abuse by one of the squabbling "schools" of

economists for another. The Treasury and Barings are rude words of the other side.

Maastricht: a pretty frontier town in a loop of the Maas (Meuse), notorious for savage battles during the rise of the Dutch Republic and the second world war, and for economic gobbledegook today. Economists cannot even agree on how to pronounce the town.

Deflation: a forbidden word. Economists prefer to call it realignment, disinflation, readjustment, or a little local difficulty. Money is not everything. But usually, in deflation, there is not enough of it. This taboo word is incorrectly formed. It should be de-inflation. You do not "flate" a bicycle tyre. Mistrust any school that is so careless of English.

Inflation: another fashionable bugaboo word. Its avoidance at all costs can become an obsession for conviction (ie simple-minded) politicians. The principle trouble about inflation is that the public like it. **Euro-sceptic**: a xenophobic and populist Little Englander. (A Europhile is a snobbish oligarch. A Eurocrat is a bureaucratic with knobs on.)

Economist: a nerd who would marry Samantha Fox for her enormous bank balances and dividends, and then find out that she hasn't got any.

Economics: the art of telling other people how to spend their money, without getting any fun out of it, and getting it wrong more often than can be excused even by chaos theory in its economic sense.

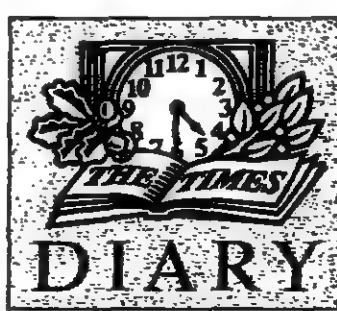
Smith's model man of Europe

THE prime minister is not the only party leader whose Maastricht headache just will not go away. John Smith is concerned that Bryan Gould could be about to be replaced in the Shadow Cabinet by another Euro-sceptic. The runner-up in last July's elections was Ron Davies, the Welsh MP who displays a distinct lack of fervour on European issues. With Gould claiming that there are already at least half a dozen other Euro-sceptics in the Shadow Cabinet, the last thing Smith wants is for their hand to be reinforced.

Smith's favoured candidate is George Robertson, the party's spokesman on Europe, and another trusted member of the Scottish mafia. A passionate supporter of Maastricht, he is known in some circles as "Labour's own Tristan Garel-Jones", a reference to the Euro-fanatic minister who has become the *bête noir* of the Tory right.

The problem for Smith is that Robert finished well down the field in the shadow cabinet election this summer. Under the old rules Davies, the party's agriculture spokesman, would have automatically taken Gould's place. Fortunately for Smith those rules were changed after Michael Foot was expelled to find that when Bill Rodgers resigned in 1980 it elevated Tony Benn to the shadow cabinet.

But party strategists are this weekend examining further changes to the voting system for the rules do not appear to specify how the ballot should be conducted. A first-past-the-post contest would give Davies his best chance. Smith is keen to run the ballot on an exhaustive basis, which, coincident-



ally, would give Robertson the best chance of succeeding. Just in case the leader had any doubt about Robertson's commitment to the European ideal, the MP spent all week in Blackpool sporting the Cross of the Federal German Order of Merit — awarded a couple of years ago for his work in promoting Anglo-German relations.

Whatever Alan Braid thinks of Maastricht, rumour has it that Rik Mayall's fictitious MP is going into Europe. La Ciociolina, the Italian politician-cum-porn star, and Alessandra Mussolini, niece of Benito, are said to have been lined up to take on the beastly Tony Braid in the next series of the *New Statesman*. Surely it cannot be long before John Major offers him a Cabinet post?

Falling standards

SOMEONE else is doing well out of the sterling crisis. To the annoyance of patriotic travellers, the British Airports Authority has put up posters at all the major airports in southeast Britain declaring: "The pound is falling!" It is followed by an exhortation to spend US dollars in the airports duty free.

BAA says the posters are merely "a public service". But the gleeful tone has enraged the patriotic wing of the Tory Party. John Carlisle,

MP for Luton North, which includes the local airport, is furious. "The answer to the sterling crisis is to stay at home and not to fly abroad. BAA is trying to turn the crisis to economic advantage. I am a BAA shareholder and I have always been happy with their performance. But I think the patriotic thing to do now is to sell the shares and buy Rover."

Middle Eastern son

A POWERFUL foreign office dynasty is being perpetuated by the announcement, expected shortly, of our new man in Saudi Arabia. Douglas Hurd has chosen David Gore-Booth, whose father was the first head of the combined foreign and commonwealth office. Widely regarded as one of the brightest high-flyers at the FCO, Gore-Booth, 49, played a key role in the restoration of diplomatic relations with Syria in 1990. Earlier this year he upset the pro-Israeli lobby when private remarks, which he made at a meeting of the Council for the Advancement of Arab British Understanding, were leaked.

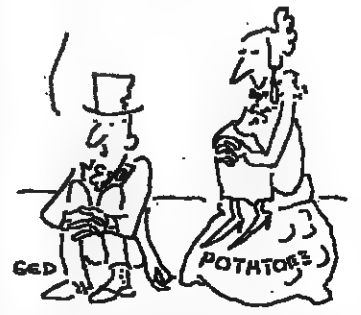
Gore-Booth's appointment to Riyadh comes as the Saudi kingdom is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its birth under the baffling slogan "Progress without change". Gore-Booth will no doubt soon be able to explain it to us.

Lord of the manna

TIMES are so hard in these days of recession that even Britain's feudal landlords are being forced to rely on their tenants for sustenance. Sir Charles Wolesey, the eleventh baronet facing debts of £4 million at the Wolesey estate, a gift from King Edgar in 975, has been forced to accept free potatoes from one tenant, Jeannie Brown, his American wife, says she relies on

friends in London to provide her with second-hand clothes to keep her presentable. "I never thought I'd be living like this when I married Charles," she says. "But you marry someone for richer or poorer and I'd be happy to live in a cardboard box if it was with my husband."

All we need now is a few loaves and fishes.



Sir Charles, 48, blames his demise on the recession and a £1.7 million investment in a garden park near his estate. Yet matters could be worse. With their free potatoes the couple are still able to dine on trout and pheasant culled from their 1,300-acre estate.

Nowhere will they be celebrating the centenary of Tennyson's death over the coming week more enthusiastically than in *Stegness*. The poet was born just 14 miles from the town and *"The Tennyson Experience"* this weekend will feature pilgrimages, readings and a lunch-time toast tomorrow proposed by Hallam Tennyson, the poet's great grandson. Local hoteliers are offering Tennysonian rooms overlooking the sea. And what is specially Tennysonian about it? These are the waves which inspired "Break, break, break", they boast proudly.

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.



AND ALL THAT

"NB There will be very few dates in this History", wrote Jane Austen in her *History of England*, published in 1791. To leave out chronological detail is the privilege of the lady novelist: whether it should also be the privilege of the history teacher is a controversy into which the prime minister, to his great credit, has now plunged.

In a letter published yesterday, Mr Major gave a discreet warning to schools that he will no longer tolerate the "insidious attack on history" and "challenges to the traditional core of this crucial subject". The *ancien régime* of kings, queens, dates and facts may soon be restored.

After a disastrous fortnight, Mr Major has scored a hit, albeit one tucked away in a letter to a retired union chief. Most startling is his open endorsement of the work of Christopher McGovern and Anthony Freeman, two history teachers who lost their jobs at Lewes Priory School in Sussex after criticising the GCSE syllabus in 1987. The education establishment has long dismissed these vocal defenders of traditional teaching as cranks, and Dr Freeman was even yesterday trying to convince a tribunal to save his job as a supply teacher. Number Ten's unqualified support of the "Lewes Ten" ought to send a shiver down the collective spine of the teaching profession.

Mr Major's long-running correspondence with Fred Jarvis, former general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, has been an intriguing commentary on his government's educational vision. Politically, it has confirmed suspicions that Downing Street, rather than the education department, is calling the more thunderous shots. A review of the history syllabus would be the most thunderous to date; it would also be the most politically contentious.

The prime minister wades boldly into a fierce intellectual controversy that has only simmered since 1989, when the national curriculum working party delivered its findings. The syllabus was intended to strike a balance between the old-fashioned history

of Trevelyan, Elton and Namier, with its emphasis on chronology, high politics, dynasties and nationhood, and the so-called "new history", which leans towards discussion of ethnicity, class, and the dispossessed. Common-room feuds were to be laid to rest in this exercise in scholarly trimming.

Balance there should be, but that balance has yet to be achieved. Traditionalists have argued with justice that the history curriculum, particularly at GCSE level, is still bedevilled by wooliness, a pathological fear of pupil failure, and creeping political correctness. One of Mr McGovern's sins was to enter a group of bright 10-year-olds for a GCSE in social and economic history which most of them found undemanding. A glance at many GCSE papers reveals a sorry *pot pourri* of questions asking pupils to write about a picture or to "empathise" with the problems of historical figures. True empathy demands deep understanding — the result of serious study, not normally the route to it. Renewed rigour and a more sparing use of non-literary sources would be a first reform. But the redefinition of history in schools must also ask what the subject is for, and what a child whose compulsory study of the past ends at 14 is entitled to expect. For too long, the teaching of history has been underpinned by a dim Whiggish or Marxist faith in historic inevitability. In the classroom, this lofty orthodoxy has translated absurdly into a diluted form of social engineering: peasant costumes, pretty pictures and a ban on kings and queens.

Mr Major's ambitions should be more modest and more focused: a history syllabus which prepares the young citizen for life in a rich and complex culture. This does not mean moral instruction. It does mean facts, dates, major personalities and the study of national identity, the tools without which any historical analysis is a waste of time. The prime minister may be having trouble writing his own chapters of history — but his interest in the protection of the past may yet yield this government's troubled present.

A GRAIL TOO FAR

While the government works out a new economic policy, time does not wait in business. Over the past two weeks, there has been an alarming upsurge of redundancies and closures spread widely around industry and commerce. The announced total of about 15,000 ranges from advanced engineering to the high street. There are many different individual causes, but the overwhelming message from industry has been that companies that had hoped to last out the recession, without cutting costs severely, cannot hold on any longer.

When recovery does come, some industries and services should be able to bounce back. Many will not be able to supply a swift upturn in demand from home production. Industrialists who have seen recovery on the horizon two or three times already, have finally been forced to plan for a continuing low level of demand in order to survive in an economy locked into high interest and exchange rates. Having been disappointed before, they must take the economy as it is, not as it ought to be.

Even before this year's bonfire of industrial capacity, manufacturing employment had fallen to 28 per cent of the workforce in Britain, compared to 39 per cent in Germany and 34 per cent in Japan. The final loss of output may be comparable with the shake-out of 1980-1, which took place in the more positive context of an upsurge of North Sea oil production and the overdue reform of uncompetitive practices and declining industries.

As ministers rethink economic policy, they should put the needs of industry first. Businessmen backed entry into the ERM and the drive against inflation because they thought they might find the businessman's goal of stability and predictable economic weather. Instead, the policy focused on

prices and exchange rates, while most other economic variables went haywire. Natural cycles and storms will always afflict the international economy. Stability cannot be measured by one variable alone. Flexible economic management must aim to provide the most stable combination of interest and exchange rates, prices, taxes and demand growth available. That is the main aid any government can give to business, and is as much the concern of the trade ministers as of the Treasury.

Other government policies should, however, also be bent to the same end. This week, the foreign secretary conceded that the timing of Britain's return to monetary co-operation in the European Community should be determined by economic rather than foreign policy goals. That is a relief. Another important source of relief would come if promoting the interests of British distillers, steelmakers, vehicle manufacturers and securities houses had as high a priority as sorting out a common EC foreign policy.

Domestically, industry needs support rather than interference. That does not mean the Treasury should succumb to every demand for privilege, tax concessions or grants. Rather, it should consider, for example, the weight given to measures designed to increase domestic competition. These have had damaging side-effects, encouraging imports of goods from fertilisers to telecommunications equipment, and turning the gas, electricity and brewing industries upside down. That kind of interference can be just as smothering as Labour's old attempts at dirigisme.

Ministers have endlessly told the public that only industry can produce the wealth to strengthen public services at home and British influence abroad. The lesson has not yet been absorbed in Whitehall.

MORAL DISTINCTION FUDGED

Harsh words have been exchanged between London and Bonn lately, whether about sterling's exit from the ERM and the role of the Bundesbank, or about Maastricht and the spectre of a two-speed Europe. On the German side, "explanations" have been demanded and a secret memorandum leaked; accusations and apologies by the British have succeeded one another with bewildering rapidity. Mutual trust may indeed have been damaged by these skirmishes; yet there are times when plain speaking between friends can help to clear the air. The British government has not been frank in commenting on the row over today's celebrations in Peenemünde of the anniversary of the V2 rocket. Here, for once, harsh words should have been used.

Once the strength of public revulsion against the commemoration in this country had become apparent, the German government withdrew its support. State secretary Erich Riedl, who had called the event a "celebration of Germany's contribution to space travel", was refused permission to speak at Peenemünde. But Hitler's "vengeance weapons" are apparently seen by members of the Kohl government as morally equivalent to the Allied bombing offensive. In reprising his subordinate, Herr Jürgen Möllemann, the German economics minister, declared that the V2 ceremony was just as tasteless as the erection of a statue to Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris in the Strand, an event that was attended by the Queen Mother. An equivocating, self-exculpating doctrine seems to underlie this statement, echoed by Herr Möllemann's remarks last Monday, the British foreign

secretary was saying much the same thing on American television. Under the mistaken impression that the V2 ceremony had been cancelled, Mr Hurd drew precisely the same parallel with the Harris statue, adding that "to some people in either country [such events] arouse feelings and people have to be sensitive to those feelings". His calculated imprecision glossed over the real issue: the moral distinction between the two causes for which Bomber Harris and Werner von Braun, inventor of the V2, were fighting.

The defeat of Hitler could not have been accomplished without the dedication and self-sacrifice of the airmen who died over Germany. Strategic bombing may have been a mistake; but, against an atrocious enemy who was otherwise invulnerable, it was a justifiable one. The murderous brilliance of the Nazi war machine, of which the V2 was the supreme example, derived from a readiness by scientists to suspend their scruples in return for resources (including slave labour) which enabled them to achieve their Faustian ambitions. The rocket is a symbol of their corruption. A V2 destroyed Smithfield market with the loss of 110 lives in March 1945, a few weeks before the inevitable end. The war was not over until Hitler lay dead in his bunker, his ideas discredited by the terrible price Germans had been forced to pay for following him.

Plenty of Germans are ashamed of the V2 affair. Rightly, the foreign secretary does not wish to intrude on private grief. But the lesson of Peenemünde is that blurring moral distinctions for the sake of friendly relations is bound to give succour to that minority of Germans who, even now, are summoning up evil spirits from the dead.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Bouquets and brickbats for new Criminal Justice Act

From His Honour Judge Tucker, QC

Sir, Your helpful leader of September 30 on the new Criminal Justice Act contains an error on an important factual matter. "Hitherto", you state, "if a judge thought a prisoner deserved at least one year behind bars, he had to sentence him to three years." This is not the case. Up to (and including) today, if a judge considers that the justice of the case requires a man to be imprisoned for one year, it is his duty to sentence him to that term.

Many authorities have emphasised that the sentencing judge should not take into account the probable effect of remission or the possible effect of parole. Twelve months, therefore, it would be, even if the offender is to be released by the Executive in four months (or less if he has been in custody before trial).

From tomorrow the judge will have to go through the following mental process: "You deserve 12 months but 12 months under the old law would mean you may have expected to be out in four and under the new law you will not be out before six. So I must achieve the same result in order to be fair and sentence you to eight".

The word "fair" above can be taken either to mean fair to the accused — to stop him serving an extra two months — or fair to the Executive — to stop them having to keep him an extra two months. The observer can take his pick, and the sentence passed will reflect neither the time actually served nor the nominal time which ought to be served for what the offence deserves.

Either way, it may perhaps be understood why some of those who are going to have to try to apply the new Act are less than wildly enthusiastic at the prospect.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN TUCKER,
Winchester Combined Court Centre,
The Law Courts,
Winchester, Hampshire.
September 30.

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, Your report (September 30) that the Lord Chief Justice has misgivings about the provision in the Criminal Justice Act 1991 (section 29) relating to the effect of previous convictions. So have many others.

Perhaps these misgivings can be dispelled if that section is construed, as in my opinion it can be, as doing no more than putting into ambiguous words the effect of observations which were made many times in the Court of Appeal during the 15 years I was a member of it about the way judges should treat previous convictions. Unfortunately, they were never recorded in the Law Report.

Trial judges were advised that they should assess, as the facts proved, the seriousness of the offence charged. Previous convictions did not make it

any more serious; but the facts, however, might show that the offence charged was just one incident in a criminal course of conduct. If this were so, the offence became more serious.

It is most unlikely, for instance, that any magistrates' court would nowadays regard the stealing of food and clothes in a store as an offence serious enough to merit a custodial sentence. But if previous convictions, not charged on the same occasion, showed that shoplifting was a way of life for the accused, a custodial sentence might be appropriate.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village, Skelton, Yorkshire.
September 30.

From His Honour Judge D. Q. Miller

Sir, The new Criminal Justice Act should be considered, I suggest, in the context of an increase in crimes recorded by the police from one million in 1960 to 3.7 million in 1989 and still increasing, one of the few growth sectors of the economy.

City of London fraudsters will welcome the maximum sentence for their being reduced from ten years' imprisonment to seven years, and since the maximum sentence for any offence is rarely imposed there will presumably be substantial reductions in sentence.

At the other end of the social scale a provision that sentence may be passed for only two offences, no matter how many have been committed, will encourage social security and credit card fraud, for it is a feature of these offences that many thousands of pounds are obtained by means of a great number of small offences, of say £50 a time. So, however large the amount dishonestly obtained, it would seem that sentence can be passed only in respect of £100.

Moreover a burglar's record has to be ignored and sentence passed as though this was a first offence.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID Q. MILLER,
31 Edinburgh Gardens,
Windsor, Berkshire.
September 30.

From the Director of Nacro

Sir, I cannot agree with the criticism by the Lord Chief Justice of the way offenders' previous records are "minimised" by the sentencing provisions of the new Criminal Justice Act. The policy to which he objects is essential to the Act's strategy for restricting imprisonment to serious cases.

A recent Home Office research study found that in cases of theft of value under £200, 39 per cent of offenders sentenced at crown courts received immediate prison sentences. In such cases involving minor offenders with previous records, imprisonment cannot be justified by the

seriousness of the offence for which the court is supposedly sentencing.

Such an approach leads to the unnecessary use of prison for less serious offenders and helps to maintain our unenviable position as the West European country with the highest proportion of its population in prison. The Act's provisions should help to reduce this over-use of custody, while simultaneously empowering courts to pass intensive new combinations of community sentences. Moreover, the Act does enable courts to take account of previous convictions when sentencing violent or sexual offenders who pose a risk of "serious harm".

Lord Taylor's practice direction, indicating that judges should reduce sentence lengths to allow for the effect of the parole changes made by the Act, is welcome. This timely initiative could prove the single most important factor in ensuring that the new sentencing framework introduced by the Act reduces rather than increases pressure on the prison system.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN STERN,
Director,
National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders,
169 Clapham Road, SW9,
September 30.

From Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, QC

Sir, The new Criminal Justice Act implements the much needed changes in the parole system recommended by a review committee on that system which I had the honour to chair and which reported to the home secretary in 1988.

In effect, as your leader of September 30 says, it is to ensure that anybody sentenced to imprisonment serves at least 50 per cent of their sentence actually in prison, and thus to give far greater meaning and reality to the sentence passed by the court. As you say, a two-year sentence in future will, in the great majority of cases, mean exactly the same as a three-year sentence meant until now.

In recommending these changes we said that "we therefore recommend that the implementation of our proposals should be accompanied by a determined effort on the part of the government and the judiciary to secure a corresponding reduction in sentencing at all levels". We further stated that "to enhance the meaning of sentences in the way we propose, without at the same time working for a reduction in present tariffs", would be an "unbalanced approach".

That was our unanimous view. As a committee we therefore strongly welcome and endorse the initiative being taken by the Lord Chief Justice and hope that it will be fully heeded.

Yours faithfully,
MARK CARLISLE,
Queen Elizabeth Building,
Temple, EC4.
September 30.

Future of Radio 4

From Mr Christopher Shaw

Sir, Our association greatly regrets the threat (report, September 29) which seems to be hanging over the future of Radio 4 long wave — the only reliable way of receiving the station on the Continent.

Radio 4 is one of the best ways of getting the British voice heard over here. Rare are the expatriates in Belgium who do not listen in regularly. As important, there is a vast audience of non-British, who also listen in regularly, in cultural and, not least, political and economic influences is invaluable. Why gag this voice, especially when there would seem to be no obvious advantage in doing so?

Is a deafening silence really the best message Great Britain can broadcast to its friends and potential friends?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SHAW
(Chairman),
British Conservative Association
in Belgium,
Boulevard Charlemagne 35,
B-1040 Brussels.

From Mrs Eve Gardner

Sir, In your report today regarding the BBC's decision concerning the broadcasting of Radio 4 programmes on FM only, their spokeswoman, Sandra Chalmers, is reported as saying, on being told that European listeners could not pick up FM, "They don't pay a licence fee."

Perhaps it is time she was reminded of the motto of the British Broadcasting Corporation — "Nation shall speak peace unto nation."

Yours faithfully,
EVE GARDNER,
Chestnut House, 8 Mill Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
September 29.

Illustrated answer

From Mr S. W. Thompson

Sir, How thoughtful it was of *The Times* today (September 30) to give me a start in my attempt at the crossword by providing the answer to 13 across ("Painting by Millais, a work he had trouble circulating") (7) with the picture of his "Ophelia" on page 5 of Life & Times.

Yours faithfully,
S. W. THOMPSON,
Wentley Edge, 101a Village Way,
Pinner, Middlesex.

Doubts about coal industry's future

From Mr Gerry Plant

Sir, With the imminent privatisation of British Coal, we in the already private sector of the industry have grave reservations about the future of the industry as a whole. Dependence on imported coal for generators would adversely affect Britain's balance of trade and oblige the generating companies to accept any price rises imposed by the current suppliers of cheap coal from Eastern Europe and the Third World.

British Coal's 1991-2 report shows a healthy increase in overall profits, but it is operating from an advantageous position of a government-owned industry, which may be expected to change.

As the law stands a private mine can employ only 150 men underground, but that number could not sustain a British Coal deep mine with its massive static costs. Such unequal treatment of producers cannot be expected to continue.

British Coal will also lose the royalties that it collects from every coal producer (drift mines and opencast) in the country, which totalled £14 million in 1991, and will itself probably have to pay royalties after privatisation.

It does not have to pay insurance premiums for employers' liability to its 58,000 employees, which we in the private sector pay at 10 per cent of the employee's earnings.

Moreover, the price paid by the newly-privatised generating companies for the new supply contract to come into effect next March will probably be greatly reduced. In a recent letter to all private suppliers National Power has indicated a price that could be met by a dozen of British Coal's deep mines at most.

Against this bleak picture the National Union of Mineworkers, which still represents 80 per cent of the workforce, is demanding a four-day week, better conditions and massive increases in wages.

We in the private sector may catch a cold with the changes, but British Coal is likely to contract pneumonia.

Yours sincerely,
GERRY PLANT
(Joint Vice-President, Federation of Small Mines of Great Britain),
The Mine Manager's House,
New Tredegar, Gwent.
October 1.

Pitchford Hall

From Lord Gibson

Sir, Somerset Herald (letter, September 30) asks whether it is appropriate for a government minister to overrule a scheme put forward by English Heritage. The ex-heritage secretary was reported as having done so on the ground that the scheme would prejudice English Heritage's other commitments.

The object in establishing "quangos" such as English Heritage and the Arts Council was to create bodies with specialist experience which could determine priorities in distributing public funds allocated to them. Intervention such as the ex-minister's in the case of Pitchford or any other ministerial direction in matters intended by Parliament to be left to the "quango" concerned will, if repeated, leave such bodies with little more than an advisory function.

I hope the new heritage secretary will respect the spirit of Parliament's intention and take a broader view of the need for him to overrule the judgment of the "quangos" responsible to him.

Yours faithfully,
GIBSON,
House of Lords.
September 30.

Quality of education

From Mr Bruce Hiscock

Sir, The National Secretary of the Association of University and College Lecturers states (letter, September 28): "In higher education there can only be one measure of productivity: the number of students educated."

In the world of industry and commerce the most important measures of productivity relate to cost and quality. I do not know what parameters are proposed for measuring profit-related pay in higher education but I hope sincerely that they relate to cost and quality, not quantity.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE HISCOCK,
1 Sedley, Southfleet, Kent.

Insubstantial role

From Sir Arthur Gold

Sir, Whitehall appears to see the arts as "U" and sport as "non-U" — a philosophy that your columns today seem to echo in their assessment of the new heritage minister. Your references to Mr Brooke's role in the former sphere are so much more detailed and more numerous than to that in the latter.

Does this account for the fact that governmental grants to the arts are so much more substantial than to sport?

Yours truly,
ARTHUR GOLD,
49 Friem Mount Drive,
Wheatstone, N20.
September 26.

BUSINESS PROFILE: Frances Heaton

Making a habit of clearing City fences

Carol Leonard discovers a lighter side to the first woman to become director general of the City Takeover Panel

No one who works with Frances Heaton, the director general of the Takeover Panel, knows her well. They might think that they do but they do not. Heaton, 47, a Lazard Brothers corporate finance director, on secondment to the panel for two years — and the first woman to hold that lofty and influential position — would be described by even the most perceptive of her colleagues as competent, competitive and controlled. All of that is entirely correct.

They would then go on, however, to claim that she is unemotional, that she is hyperactive and, after considering her well voiced protestations that this "being a woman thing" is a "non-issue" they would probably conclude that she was typical of the first wave of high level female career women, who dress in pinstripe suits, button down shirts, flat shoes and are devoid of make-

up, jewellery and perfume. At first glance, Heaton could well be of that mould. Her suit is dark, her shoes fairly flat, her brown hair is cut short and her upper-crust accent sounds clipped and slightly anxious. After 20 years at the Treasury and at merchant banks, she does not, she admits, feel comfortable with "the PR side" of her job and tends to avoid interviews for fear that she will be continually asked questions about her being a woman, about her husband, their two teenage sons and domestic life.

Given those anxieties, I talk to her at first about the panel. She gives considered answers. She describes the atmosphere within the panel as "collegiate", says it has a "very specific function, to apply the Takeover Code", and likens her role there to that of a football referee. "One of the things the panel does is not to always apply all of the rules rigorously," she says. "We are not a statutory body, if we were we would have no choice."

Heaton says it is important for the panel to be allowed discretion; she "supports self-regulation". "I think my views on this have been reinforced, as I see the difficulties

they are experiencing in Australia and France, where they have statutory bodies." She cites takeover bids that have been locked in lengthy legal battles in those countries. "It makes one very relieved that we have got the system we have. Our role is to come up with a solution that is pragmatic. I don't want to be complacent, but the panel has been going for 25 years, it has had its ups and downs, but on the whole it works very well. I would not want to meddle with it."

Heaton is not by nature an agent of change. She is instead a rigorous maintainer of the status quo, a proud, independent woman of the shires, a peculiarly British breed, decisive, determined, with high principles and an unforgiving streak if anyone should ever dare to break implied, but unspoken, rules. Even her closest friends admit that if they broke her trust, it would never be forgotten. Meanwhile, back in the panel's offices in the Stock Exchange Tower, Heaton is beginning to relax. Does she find it difficult to sit still? "I don't sit," she replies. At home, in the evening, if her husband Martin — a partner at Weatherall Green & Smith, the senior standard reply is "Give me a drink, then." She never listens to music, she dislikes watching television. "It is so intrusive. We do have one, but I will not sit in a room with a television." Several years ago, when one of her sons was about nine, he asked her at the weekend if she had to go back to the office on Monday. When Heaton replied, "Of course, darling," his retort was, "Thank goodness, at least we can have a rest then."

"When I was a young girl my mother once said to me, 'Frances, you must never look after your own children'," Heaton recalls. Urged to explain, she says, as if stating the obvious: "Because I have no patience. She knew I would probably end up killing them." She laughs. Her face alters, becoming softer and far prettier. She is quick to tell stories against herself. She is an air of authority, but no apparent



Melting smile: when Frances Heaton laughs she is no longer the ice maiden, "her face alters, becoming softer and far prettier"

sense of self-importance. It is as if she cannot quite believe that she is doing what she does, but that since she is there, she might as well strive to do her best. "I absolutely never dreamt I would end up doing something like this," she says. "It never even entered my head that I would have a career. I thought I would have a nanny and three horses."

By now, Heaton has become less considered, more responsive. "I suppose," she ponders, "that when you have a full time job, two homes, two teenage sons and horses, you get to the point where you are over-relied. It does become jolly difficult to relax. There's always something you feel you could be doing, even if it's only making custard." The ice maiden is beginning to melt. But there is no categorical sign of a watershed until I inadvertently hit

upon one particularly sensitive spot. Heaton's father. A Hampshire tenant farmer, who built up such a good business that he was eventually able to buy his freehold, he was, according to Heaton, as strict as he was strong.

He forbade her from pursuing her first love — horses — as a career, but she adored him nevertheless. "I think his father had lost a lot of money on horses, but I don't know because it was never discussed," she mutters, speaking in a whisper as if afraid that her father might somehow overhear. He died five years ago but was clearly a dominant force in her life. As she talks about him, the tears begin to trickle. The trickle turns into an uncontrollable sob. The supposedly unemotional director

general is distraught. "I miss him so much," she gasps. "I'm so proud of all that he achieved." Her mother, a magistrate, died three years later.

Five minutes pass, and Heaton, aided by tissues and a cup of tea, has all but recovered. To her credit, she makes no attempt to scratch what has happened from the record. She is the type of person who would always be soically accountable for her actions. Heaton admits that she can have a fiery temper, "mostly when I get tired and usually because someone has put my favourite knife in the wrong drawer, or something like that. Afterwards I feel very foolish and go round apologising." But would her City colleagues see her as emotional or temperamental? "No, probably not," she says. One person who would not be surprised, how-

ever, is Anna Harvey, the deputy editor of *Vogue*, who was a contemporary of Heaton's at Queen Anne's School, Caversham in Berkshire.

"She is very warm, very loving and very caring," says Harvey. "Yes, she is emotional and as a child she was very wilful. She was always very single-minded, and did not suffer fools. She could sometimes be rude but whereas the teachers would interpret it as impertinence, she would say she was simply being honest. She has more integrity than any other person I know. And she has a terrific sense of humour."

The surprising thing about Harvey, however, is that someone like her should be cited by Heaton as one of her closest friends. For Heaton, with her first in law from Trinity College, Dublin, and her

Inner Temple training as a barrister, to be so closely associated with the glamorous, frothy world of haute couture, forces one to look again at this supposedly dry professional. She is, by now, a very different person to the one I was introduced to an hour or so earlier. She is animated, jovial, anything but dry.

I take a closer look also at her clothes. Her suit may be dark but it is olive green, not navy blue or black, and there are small bows on the lapels. "It's my best suit, a Paddy Campbell actually," confides Heaton with obvious pride, "and this, of course, is my Gap t-shirt." She fingers her salmon pink t-shirt and laughs.

She watches me as I scrutinise her more closely. Her shoes are highly polished, her legs and figure enviable and her bone structure perfect. She is, in fact, an exceptionally pretty woman. I begin to wonder whether Heaton has been forced into a career that she has never truly enjoyed, for as soon as that stiff, protective guard is allowed to drop, she ceases to look the part. She readily admits that she did not enjoy her job at the Treasury, where she worked for seven years. "I did not enjoy my time there at all. I always hated going back there after holidays but I felt like that about school, too, and so I just did it. If you have been brought up in a disciplined way you do things you do not like doing."

A two-year secondment from the Treasury to SG Warburg was like a "breath of fresh air". Heaton thrived on the adrenalin surges caused by deal-making, but disliked Warburg's workaholic attitude and moved to Lazard's in 1980, becoming a director in 1987. She likens corporate finance to three-day eventing and claims that the pressures are similar. "There are lots of similarities — the mental pressure of eventing, the precision of dressage. Then you have really got to go for it, cross country, and you need to have stamina. Doing corporate finance deals is physically wearing. It's certainly the best substitute I've found." A substitute, of course, for competitive horse riding. And therein lies Heaton's one admitted regret. That she was not given an opportunity "to see how far I could get in riding". If she had gone against her father's wishes, he would, she says, have disowned her. There is, however, one other regret, too painful to be voiced, but far more keenly felt. It is that her father is no longer alive to appreciate her alternative achievements.

Matthew Bond

Now appearing in Sorry, I'll read that again and What's my line?

Am I dreaming or have we really just witnessed a week in which V2 rockets, a Baron von Richthofen and Spitfire planes battled for dominance of newspaper front pages?

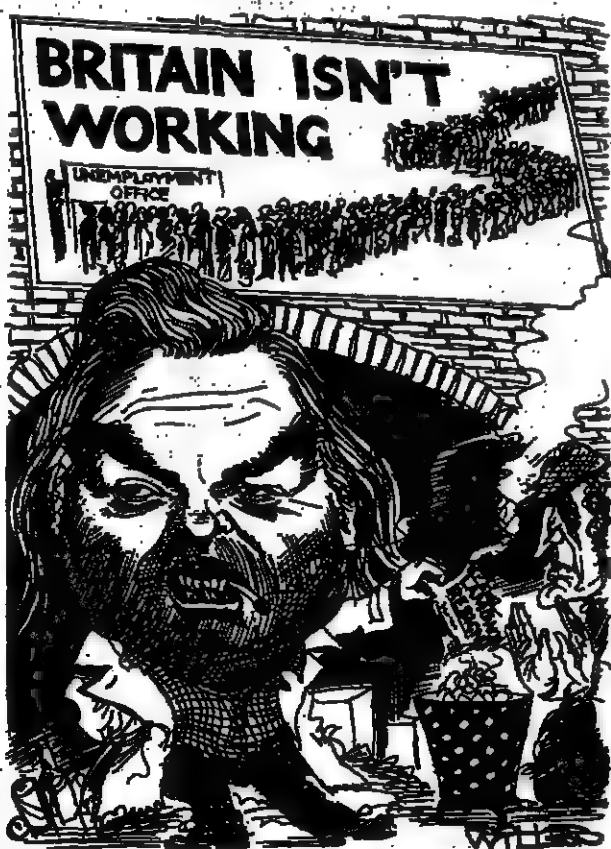
Before going any further, it might be prudent for readers to give this column a sharp pinch, to make sure that its well-lunched author did not doze off in front of last Sunday's film marathon. Once! No, it is just as I feared — horribly true.

For horrid this week was — and not just because of the improbable echoes of events most thought long over. More recent and familiar evils were also excelling themselves. Hour by hour, Britain's jobless queue grew longer and hour by hour the pound's value fell lower. As Lord Callaghan might have put it, the sky was dark with chickens coming home to roost — but only after dropping their calling cards on those who sought to labour below.

Truly it was a sad, sad situation but sorry seemed a long way from the hardest word. Indeed, it seemed the only word. For as the litany of economic woes continued, apologies were breaking out all over.

It was, appropriately, Norman Lamont, who initiated this orgy of regret, but then he has a lot to be sorry for. He began well — by apologising to the nation. Unfortunately, it was to the German nation. Germany, he felt, had been on the receiving end of too many harsh, Anglo-Saxon words both before and after Britain's undignified departure from the ERM. He begged its forgiveness.

Anyone puzzled by such behaviour should have borne in mind who was doing the apologising — Mr Lamont of the "we are absolutely committed to the ERM/we are absolutely not committed to the ERM" policy line. Had they done so, they would not have been surprised when, 24 hours later, he turned round and said he had not apologised to Germany, and



apologised to anyone in Britain who thought he had. And they should not be surprised when (of course, I am not resigning) he performs his final U-turn and adds one more to the jobless total.

The Germans were briefly caught up by the spirit of conciliation and graciously withdrew official support from the celebrations surrounding the 50th anniversary of the first successful V2 rocket. But no sooner had they done so, than the Bundesbank launched another financial rocket towards Britain.

It landed, with devastating effect, on the desk of Baron von Richthofen, the German ambassador. The explosion that followed his decision to share the memo's contents with a wider audience sparked the sort of round of "we're sorry/we're not sorry"

that Mr Lamont would have been proud of. For while the memo revealed that the Bundesbank was completely unrepentant about its role in the pound's demise (as the Labour party conference made alliteratively clear, it was all the fault of pin-striped patriots and shirt-sleeved speculators) the bank's initial reaction was to express regret that the contents had been made public.

But, as if from keenness to outdo Mr Lamont, that regret lasted less than eight hours before being magically transformed into delight that such a definitive version of events had rightly found its way to the public domain.

Anglo-German hostilities were immediately resumed, inflamed by suggestions that the European fighter aircraft be reconstructed the Spitfire should Britain decide, as the defence ministry suggested it

should, to pursue the £22 billion project alone. Presumably Malcolm Rifkind and Jonathan Aitken have already pencilled in dates to apologise to the workforce when Britain does not.

As for Mr Major, faced with surveys showing that over 1,200 companies were going bust a week and empirical evidence that thousands of jobs were being lost every day, he did what every prime minister does when faced with a domestic crisis. He indulged in a frenzied bout of shuttle diplomacy.

While Mr Lamont was all apologies, Mr Major was all lines. He began by suggesting that the ERM, admirable concept though it was, was riddled with fault lines — with the pound presumably positioned somewhere close to the financial equivalent of the San Andreas fault.

His European hosts begged to differ. Mr Major, in need of allies, quietly concurred and announced that he was drawing a line under such disagreements. The future, he said, would begin with a ratified Maastricht treaty, even it took a three-line whip to get there.

Top priority for Mr Major's diplomatic endeavour was to lay the lie of a two-speed Europe. Britain wanted to be up there, in line with its European partners, he said. Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterand, presumably swayed by an avalanche of evidence from the likes of Boulton & Paul, PowerGen, IBM, Sears, Cadbury-Schweppes and VSEL in Britain's private sector and the RAF, BBC, PSA and Defence Research Agency in the public, reluctantly agreed. No speed Europe it is.

All round, a horrid week. But let us finish in Ukraine, where prime minister Vitold Folkh resigned this week. He explained his departure thus. "I have noticed growing tensions in society and have finally had to arrive at the conclusion that I am so disliked that it would be better for me to go." Here's to conclusions.

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WEEKEND MONEY

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Policyholders left in limbo



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

The overnight collapse of an insurance company with no chance of getting any money back is every policyholder's worst nightmare. Hundreds of thousands of policyholders whose cars and homes are insured with Mutual must have heaved a sigh of relief this week that this has not happened to them.

But even the company admits that it is stuck between a rock and a hard place. Because the company has not gone into liquidation and is still technically offering cover, policyholders cannot get a refund of their premiums, the company has said. Those who have just renewed their policy and paid the whole premium in one go are stuck with a company that has just declared an indefinite moratorium on paying out claims. The company's promise that it will make a further announcement in seven days does not mean that it will resume payment of claims. It is more likely to be a progress report on negotiations to find a buyer for the different parts of the business.

Building societies and brokers

acted with commendable speed on Wednesday to move their customers from MMI to other insurers when it became clear the trade department was about to order the company not to take any new business or renew existing business. Unfortunately, customers of the Norwich and Peterborough and the Automobile Association who have submitted claims to MMI but who have not yet been paid will have to wait in the queue with everyone else until the moratorium is lifted.

Customers of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society are more fortunate. General Accident, which has taken over the buildings and contents insurance of 216,000 C&G borrowers, has undertaken to meet existing claims already made to MMI. Those who took out a policy through a mailshot or answering an advertisement are still MMI customers and will have to wait until

the whole mess is cleared up before they can get payouts on existing or new claims.

There is no danger that claims will not be met eventually. If MMI folds, its 700,000 customers will be able to turn to the Policyholders' Protection Board for payment of claims. The board administers a compensation scheme funded by a compulsory levy on all insurance companies. Policyholders will get 90 per cent of any claim made, except if it is a third party motor claim, when the whole cost of the claim will be met. The AA has undertaken to meet

any shortfall on non-compulsory claims, if the worst does happen. Other brokers will do likewise.

The concern is that millions of policyholders may be left hanging on while the company struggles to find a buyer. A quick decision needs to be made. Policyholders have the right to have claims paid promptly. This is what they pay premiums for.

Commonsense

Policyholders can take some comfort from the fact that the one effective arbitrator for the

industry has been reappointed for two years. Dr Julian Farrand made a few enemies when he first started adjudicating on insurance claims that had been firmly turned down by industry members. As insurance ombudsman, he began finding more frequently and more publicly in favour of the policyholders. Many in the industry did not like this. Although no individual company has been identified by the ombudsman in annual reports, they have not liked any suggestion that they wriggle out of paying, whenever they can, being given any credence by a former Law Commissioner.

This year's report that his bureau dealt with more than 40,000 enquiries last year appeared to prompt a campaign of advertisements implying that a large proportion of claims are fraudulent.

Not all complaints to the ombudsman are well-founded. But for the

many who feel they have been robbed by a monolith, the bureau will listen, explain how things work, and in about a third of cases find in their favour. Many other cases are resolved without the need for an official result, once the companies concerned realise what course of action might be recommended.

Dr Farrand is not afraid of highlighting the nonsenses that insurers try to foist on customers. One tried to get out of paying a policyholder for spectacles dropped and broken on his patio because it was not part of the private dwelling or outbuildings at the address. More seriously, another tried to avoid paying out on a term policy that had run for eight years. Dr Farrand ruled that having accepted the business and established the policyholder was dead, it had to pay out the £550,000 involved. He was also not afraid to ridicule the policyholder who claimed for 93lbs of food as the defrosted contents of a freezer that would only hold 42lbs. Two more years of such good sense must be welcome.

Interest earned on accounts more than halved in past two years

Savers lose out again as rates take a dive

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

SAVERS are being clobbered again for at least the tenth time in the past two years. During that time, they have seen the interest earned on their accounts more than halved.

And even after the current round of cuts they face the prospect of small snips here and there when building societies and banks assess how competitive their rates are.

Those societies that have taken the move have, in the main, cut savers' rates by more than the 0.75 percentage point reduction in the mortgage rate. While mortgage rates have come down three times this year, some lenders have trimmed savings rates on five or six separate occasions. Even National Savings, which for much of the year has provided strong competition, has cut its rates for the fourth time since the start of May.

Nationwide, the second largest society, was one of the first to cut its investment rates on Thursday. The reductions of up to 1.2 per cent on gross rates averaged 1 per cent. The society cut its base mortgage rate by 0.75 per cent.

Its 90-day notice account was paying 15.33 gross in October, 1990, on £10,000. That worked out at 11.5 per cent after composite rate tax was deducted. At the start of the year, it paid 10.1 per cent gross and 7.58 per cent net.

Since Thursday, the CapitalBuilder account has paid 7.5 per cent gross and 5.63 per cent after basic rate tax. On its lowest band — up to £4,999 — the account was cut by 1.2 percentage points to 6.5 per cent, a net rate of 4.88 per cent.

The net rates have also been cut by the change from composite rate tax in April last year to basic rate tax on savings accounts. Basic rate tax is approximately 3 per cent higher. However, non-taxpayers can claim back tax, whereas they could not with composite rate tax.

Nationwide's instant access CashBuilder account paid 14.67 per cent gross on £10,000 two years ago. That was a net rate of 11 per cent. By the start of the year the gross rate was 9.7 per cent and the net was down to 7.28 per



G. PHILPOT

cent. From Thursday, the gross rate came down 1 percentage point to 7.2 per cent and the net rate fell to 5.4 per cent. The Halifax was paying 11 per cent net in October, 1990, on its 90-day Xtra account. That is now 6.38 per cent and set to come

down before the November cut in mortgage rates. Its instant Xtra account has come down from 10 per cent net to 5.48 per cent. But the largest society has introduced a better paying instant access account called Instant Xtra. Plus that is paying 6.15 per cent net. Abbey National has cut rates four times this year, but it did pass up one opportunity in August when most other mortgage lenders used the reduction in National Savings rates to cut their savings rates. The former building

society cut savers' rates by an average of 0.9 percentage points. The largest cut is 1.1 percentage points. Abbey cut basic mortgages by 0.75 percentage points and larger loans by 0.5 percentage points. It paid 15.4 per cent gross on its 90-day Sterling

Asset account on £10,000 two years ago. If customers transferred to the new Investment Account when it was launched, they are now getting 8.95 per cent gross, but

from Tuesday the rate comes down to 7.85 per cent. Those still in Sterling Asset are getting 8 per cent gross. The new rate will be advertised in branches, the Abbey said.

In the past two years savers in the C&G London Share account have had 11 interest rate cuts. They started with a gross rate of 16.33 per cent in

One way to benefit is to go for a cash fund investing in bank and building society accounts

the postal account and now have 8.6 per cent. The sixth largest society cut its standard mortgage rate by a full percentage point this week for new borrowers and from December for existing borrowers. Savers had their rates cut yesterday. Building society savers outnumber borrowers by six to one, but many feel their interests do not come first.

One way they can ensure they are getting the benefit of the best society and bank accounts is to invest in a cash fund that invests in such accounts.

Fidelity's, which has no front-end charge, was paying a gross rate of 9.2 per cent (6.9 per cent net) on Thursday. The building society bond from Providence Capital sold by the Building Society Shop in Nottingham was still paying a net rate of 7.23 per cent.

These will both come down, but by the average of the best money market accounts. They also have the advantage of getting the best rates from institutions because of the size of their investments.

Guaranteed income bonds from life offices are offering similar net rates to those of building societies and National Savings. However, when funds allocated to the bonds run out, rates on new money could be lower. According to Chase de Vere, the independent broker, some of the best rates over one year come from Alico (American Life Company). On balances of £5,000 the company is paying 6.6 per cent guaranteed for one year, while above £50,000, the rate is 7.1 per cent. Over five years, M&G is paying a guaranteed 7.75 per cent on £2,000 and over.

Templeton looking annual bonuses are still being paid on with-profits bonds. However, these bonuses cannot be guaranteed. These bonds are insurance contracts and invest in the stock market; they are therefore riskier investments and should only be considered as part of a portfolio. Investments earn annual bonuses that are added to the policy and cannot be taken away. Eagle Star is paying 9.5 per cent this year, against 9.75 per cent last year. It has also been applying a "market value adjuster" for the past month because of poor stock market conditions and an increased number of investors cashing in policies. The adjuster reduces the value of investments and therefore payouts.

Market for guaranteed returns shrinks

THE choice of guaranteed rates on building society savings accounts is also shrinking as interest rate uncertainty continues and societies remain reluctant to commit themselves into next year to what may seem generous fixed rates. In the words of one leading building society manager, they have also "seen off" earlier competition from National Savings for savers' money. Savers wanting certainty in the face of falling rates need to move quickly before remaining offers are withdrawn (Sara McConnell writes).

One society risked launching a fixed rate this week. The Portman launched a fixed interest bond offering a return of 9 per cent gross, 6.75 per cent net, guaranteed for 12 months. The minimum investment is £500 and the maximum £10,000.

It joins a handful of other societies offering guaranteed rates. The Halifax offers a fixed rate of 7.75 per cent gross, 5.813 per cent net, on balances of £2,000 and above for six months. Balances of £10,000 and above can earn 8 per cent gross, 6 per cent net, for six months. Over one year, savers with between £2,000 and £10,000 can lock themselves into a rate of 7.95 per cent gross, 5.963 per cent net, while those with more than £10,000 can get 8.3 per cent gross, 6.225 per cent net. Investors opting for guaranteed monthly

income for a year will get 7.64 per cent gross, 5.756 per cent net, on balances of between £2,000 and £10,000 and 8 per cent gross, 6 per cent net, on balances over £10,000. Those prepared to commit themselves for five years can earn a maximum rate of 8.55 per cent gross, 6.413 per cent net, annually on balances of more than £10,000.

The Skipton Building Society braved the uncertainty to launch a second issue of its Imperial Bond last week. This pays a rate of 10 per cent gross, 7.5 per cent net, until January 31, 1993 on balances of £5,000 or more. The first issue of the bond paid 11 per cent gross. Like the Halifax, these rates take into account the latest base rate cut. David Charlton, the society's assistant general manager, marketing, said: "Societies are anticipating that rates will come down again and they don't want to lock themselves into paying premium rates. The danger of National Savings has been left long behind."

National Savings' new lower rates are certainly less of a challenge to building societies, but still offer certainty, particularly if rates continue to fall. The 39th issue fixed interest certificates, to be launched on Monday, will pay a tax-free return of 6.75 per cent compound if certificates are held for five years. First Option bonds will pay 6.5 per cent net.

MILLIONS of savers are earning a lower rate on their investments than they could be because their money is in obsolete accounts. Because these accounts are closed to new investors, banks and building societies let their rates fall more quickly as there is no need to pay higher rates to attract savings.

Some investors in obsolete accounts are earning less than 1 per cent net on their balances. Most leading societies are unwilling to reveal how many people are still in obsolete accounts. However, the Woolwich, the third largest society, said that 700,000, or 15.5 per cent, of its 4.5 million savers had money in one of its 13 obsolete accounts. If the Woolwich's experience is representative, it indicates that 6 million of Britain's 40 million building society accounts are getting a lower rate than they could be.

Banks and building societies came under heavy pressure from the building societies ombudsman at the start of this year to give investors more information about the rates paid on obsolete accounts.

One society, the Nationwide, was forced to pay compensation to an investor whose account became obsolete, on the ground that it had not given enough publicity to the difference between rates on the old BonusBuilder account and the new CashBuilder

account which replaced it in September, 1990.

Now, most leading high street institutions are making more of an effort to tell investors about rates. Several, including the Nationwide and the National & Provincial, have help lines so that investors can get an update on what the main discontinued accounts are paying and the best rates available.

Branch staff are told to advise people in obsolete accounts to change. Rates for discontinued and new accounts are normally displayed in branches. However, societies emphasise that it is still up to investors to decide whether to move their accounts.

Nationwide, which came under fire from investors for not giving enough information last year, pays an investor with £500 in the obsolete instant access BonusBuilder account just 2.93 per cent net, 3.9 per cent gross. The same sum in a CashBuilder account would earn 4.2 per cent net, 5.6 per cent gross.

Abbey National said that

money in obsolete accounts represented 10 per cent of total savings from its 10 million savers. Branch staff have been instructed since September last year to tell savers in Five Star and Saver accounts that they would be better off with an Instant Saver account, introduced to replace the two obsolete ones.

Those still in Saver accounts are earning 0.5 per cent gross, 0.38 per cent net on a £500 balance. Five Star customers fare slightly better, earning 3.11 per cent net, 4.15 per cent gross on balances of between £500 and £5,000. However, both would earn more in an Instant Saver, which pays 4.8 per cent net, 6.4 per cent gross on balances of between £500 and £2,499.

The bank has also written to savers still holding Sterling Asset 90-day notice accounts suggesting that they move their funds to the new investment account. This is also a 90-day notice account.

However, many investors have opted to stay with the Sterling Asset account, which

was withdrawn in May 1991. This pays an annual bonus of 1 per cent gross, 0.75 per cent net if there are no withdrawals. Its rates are about 1 per cent lower than for the Investment account.

Balances of between £1,000 and £10,000 in the Sterling Asset account earn 4.46 per cent net, 5.95 per cent gross excluding bonus, compared with 5.21 per cent net, 6.95 per cent gross in the Investment account. The Investment account also has a lower minimum balance of £500. Rates on both accounts assume interest paid annually.

The Halifax estimates that tens of thousands of savers still have money in the obsolete Instant Xtra account although they could get nearly one percentage point more from the Instant Xtra Plus.

The Instant Xtra account was closed to new business in April last year, when composite rate tax was abolished. An investment of £500 in the Instant Xtra Plus account would earn 5.36 per cent net, 7.15 per cent gross, while the same investment in the Instant Xtra account would earn 4.54 per cent net, 6.05 per cent gross. The Halifax said it would cost too much to mail all its 15 million savers with news of new rates. "There are notice boards in branches with current and closed issue rates."

SARA MCCONNELL

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Warning on perils of bankruptcy

GUIDANCE on what to do if you are behind with mortgage payments and a warning that bankruptcy is not an easy way to escape debts are among the more sobering items in *The New Penguin Guide to Personal Finance*.

Alison Mitchell, the presenter of Radio Four's *Moneybox* programme, devotes a sizable part of the book to coping with debt. She gives a warning that bankruptcy is not automatically given and that it does not write off mortgage arrears, rent, tax or VAT.

Mrs Mitchell says of bankruptcy: "Although it will take the immediate pressure off your financial circumstances, it will wreck your money plans for the rest of your life. You will probably never again get a mortgage, a bank loan or anything on hire purchase."

The book costs £17.95 and is published on October 29.

Societies launch scheme to house homeless in repossessed property

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

A SCHEME to use repossessed properties to house the homeless and those put in bed and breakfast accommodation by local authorities was launched this week by two building societies.

The National and Provincial and Bristol & West have joined forces to put £10 million into the project which should initially help to house 200 families. It is hoped that other lenders will join the scheme once it is established.

Talks are already advanced with other societies. This will increase the number of homes available. Under the project, local authorities and housing associations are expected to contact Community Housing, an associated company of the two societies set up for the purpose, with details of their housing needs.

The societies will then check what they have on their books that might fit. These will then be sold to Community Housing for the higher of two independent valuations and let to the tenants identified by the local authorities at "affordable rents". This might be £100 a week for a two-bedroom house in London.

The two societies have about 4,000 repossessed properties to choose from. In the first six months of the year, mortgage lenders took almost 36,000 properties into possession. Many of these, and those remaining unsold from last year, are depressing the housing market. Lenders have a



Home help: Tony FitzSimons, of Bristol & West, who says: "We want to identify people who need a house."

fiduciary duty to get the best possible price for them, but in a depressed market unoccupied and unoccupied properties do not sell.

Many of them have deteriorated since the owners left. Under the scheme, it is intended that properties should not be allowed to remain empty for too long. After three months on the open market they will become available for rental. First of all, the society will have to make sure they are brought up to the correct

standard. David O'Brien, chief executive of the N & P, said: "We are offering a viable alternative to the fire sale of repossessed properties."

Many properties are sold at auctions and because they are in poor decorative order they can fetch very low prices. Others remain unsold because the lenders put reserve prices on them that make them unattractive to speculators wanting to make a killing at the expense of lenders, borrowers and insurance com-

panies. Often repossessed properties sold at auction are bought by private landlords.

The societies hope to get a rental yield of 7 per cent from the properties, but say that any income is better than them being left empty and their value falling.

Tony FitzSimons, chief executive of Bristol & West said: "We want to identify people who need a house first and not houses on our books that we want to sell."

Circle 33, one of the hous-

ing associations expected to use the scheme to house families has had difficulty finding suitable properties for rental from lenders.

Melinda Phillips, a director, said: "Over the last five years we have leased from the private sector 2,500 properties. Since Christmas we have been feverishly looking for more empty properties we could rent. We want to be able to get more people out of bed and breakfast more quickly."

When more lenders join the scheme the number of properties in specific areas of need will increase. One or two societies may have only a few suitable properties in one location, but as more join the scheme the available properties will increase and be in more useful numbers for local authorities or housing associations.

The rents charged are likely to be below the housing benefit threshold for each area. This will mean that if a three-bedroom £200,000 property is put into the scheme in the same area as a three-bedroom £60,000 property, the rents are likely to be similar.

Counsellors to offer US-style service on debts

By LIZ DOLAN

A DEBT counselling service, to be launched next April, could ease the plight of citizens' advice bureaux struggling to cope with an explosion of enquiries about debt and other recession-related problems.

The first American-style consumer credit counselling service is to be launched in Leeds, with the backing of the Leeds office of GE Capital, which provides credit for Burton customers among others.

If this is successful, a network of 20 non-profit-making offices is planned. The service puts people who cannot cope with their debts on what is termed "debt management". That means they pay a monthly cheque for as much as they can afford to the counselling service, which shares the money out among creditors.

Although non-profit-making, the service will charge creditors who benefit from the payments on a pro-rata basis. In America, consumer credit counselling is backed by a charity, the National Foundation. Over here, it is likely to be run by a body of professional administrators and counsellors.

In its annual report this week, the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux drew attention to the plight of members struggling to cope with a 7 per cent increase in enquiries at a time when their own funding requirements were also being hit by recession.

Consumer and debt problems were up by 15.9 per cent and employment-related queries had grown by 10.5 per cent, but local authorities had been forced to limit support through lack of funds, and the credit industry itself had largely failed to answer appeals for debt advice funding, Stuart Errington, the Nacab chairman, said.

The disappointing response from banks, building societies and other lenders left the unanswered question of just how the CAB service was supposed to cope with the current level of debt work, he

added. Attempts by the Money Advice Trust, backed by Nacab and the Finance Houses Association, to raise £3 million a year from private industry had failed miserably.

Malcolm Hurston, a member of the trust, admitted that only £1 million had been raised since the fund was launched last year. Of that sum, nearly three quarters went directly to money advice units around the country, with the rest going to the trust for distribution. A national debt line was the trust's next objective, he added.

So far, building societies and Scottish banks have proved the most resistant to appeals for help. Pleas for support and threats to expose those who ignore them have proved equally unsuccessful, and the trust has now resorted to calling for government help. MAT representatives met Lady Denton of Wakefield, the minister responsible for consumer affairs, four weeks ago, but are still awaiting her response. "She has been fully briefed," Mr Hurston said.

Citizens' Advice Bureaux are now advising on more than 1.7 million separate debts each year. Home owners threatened with repossession, self-employed people whose businesses have failed, and people facing bankruptcy were the fastest growing categories. Students, unable to cope on dwindling grants, are another growing problem.



Lady Denton: fully briefed

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Repayment cover for borrowers

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE Birmingham Midshires Building Society is offering payment protection insurance to 68,000 of its existing borrowers. They have until November 6 to apply for the insurance which costs £6.50 per £100 of cover.

Most lenders are unable to offer this cover to existing borrowers because insurers fear that they will get applications only from people who suspect their days in employment are numbered. The 13th largest society has found that 35 per cent of its new borrowers opt for mortgage repayment cover, which is more than double the average for lenders. The policy, underwritten at Lloyd's costs £6.50 per £100 of

mortgage payments. It will not pay out for unemployment during the first 120 days after the policy is taken out. When policyholders lose their jobs they have to wait a further 60 days before the claim can be made. It will then pay out for up to a full year. Self-employed people over 60 and those working abroad are excluded.

Other lenders to allow existing borrowers to take cover include the Woolwich, Cheltenham & Gloucester and National Westminster Bank. Woolwich has a longer form for late applicants to weed out those who might be about to be made redundant.

NEW INVESTMENT RATES FROM THE CHESHIRE

PREMIUM 100	INTEREST PAID	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.*
£100,000+	Annually	10.75%	8.06%	-
£50,000+	Annually	10.50%	7.88%	-
£25,000+	Annually	10.00%	7.50%	-

FROM 3RD OCTOBER 1992

PREMIUM 60	INTEREST PAID	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.*
£50,000+	Annually	9.00%	6.75%	-
£25,000+	Annually	8.25%	6.19%	-
£10,000+	Annually	7.75%	5.81%	-
£5,000+	Annually	7.50%	5.63%	-

PREMIUM 60 INCOME	INTEREST PAID	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.*
£100,000+	Monthly	9.20%	6.90%	9.60%
£50,000+	Monthly	9.02%	6.77%	9.40%
£25,000+	Monthly	8.32%	6.24%	8.65%
£10,000+	Monthly	7.86%	5.90%	8.15%
£5,000+	Monthly	7.53%	5.65%	7.80%
£2,500+	Monthly	6.78%	5.09%	7.00%

PREMIUM ACCRBS	INTEREST PAID	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.*
£50,000+	Annually	8.10%	6.08%	-
£25,000+	Annually	7.85%	5.89%	-
£10,000+	Annually	7.50%	5.70%	-
£5,000+	Annually	7.10%	5.33%	-
£2,500+	Annually	6.85%	5.14%	-
£500+	Annually	6.40%	4.80%	-
£1+	Annually	1.00%	0.75%	-

FROM 1ST NOVEMBER 1992

TESSA	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.*
£3,000+	9.49%	-	-
£1,000+	8.99%	-	-

CLOSED ISSUES

The gross rates of interest on all closed issues accounts, including compounded annual rates on SuperShare Plus (monthly interest), will be reduced by 1% gross per annum from 3rd October, except for accounts where the resulting rate would be less than 1% gross. In these cases the rate will be reduced to 1% gross per annum.

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Weighing up the options when taking your pension

BY HELEN PRIDHAM

PALLA YOUNG

ONE of the most difficult decisions facing many people at retirement is precisely how they should take their pension.

People with individual plans or who are members of a company scheme will have to decide whether their retirement income should be fixed or increasing. And if it is to increase, at what rate—3 or 5 per cent a year, perhaps, or should it be inflation-linked?

Each decision involves a trade-off. An increasing pension means accepting a lower starting one, and the higher the rate of increase in the pension, the lower the initial payments will be.

Even the experts agree that making such a decision is not easy. Ron Spill, pensions specialist at Legal & General, says: "There are a number of factors which need to be borne in mind at retirement. If you are married, your first priority will probably be to make some provision for your spouse."

"By sacrificing a little of your pension you can ensure that your spouse receives, say, half or two thirds of it after your death. You then have to work out what your income needs will be at retirement, consider how long you are likely to live and decide what you believe the prospects are for future inflation. For some people who have not adequately provided for a pension, there may be little choice. They may need all the income they can get so they will have to have a fixed pension."

Mr Spill says: "On average a man who retires at 60 can expect to live to around 76. If he makes it to age 65, however, he will, on average, live to age 78. As women tend to live longer, at 60 they can expect to live to age 80, while at 65 it is more likely they will not die until age 82." However, he says, if your parents and other relations lived longer than average, there is a good chance you will too.

Over a 20-year period, inflation can seriously erode the buying power of a fixed pension. Since the mid-Eighties when it reached over 20 per cent, annual inflation has fallen below 5 per cent only in three years—1987, 1988 and 1991. Only pensioners with index-linked pensions were fully protected.

But do index-linked pensioners really need to consider this option, bearing in mind the government's commitment to zero inflation?



Inflation is now down to under 4 per cent. But economists such as Robert Barry, of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, believe that Britain's exit from the exchange-rate mechanism will reverse this trend. "We see inflation, excluding mortgage costs, back up to 4.5 per cent by the end of this year, due to rising import costs, and then staying flat for a few years."

There is a reluctance to look much further ahead because of uncertainty over the return to the ERM. But Patrick Foley, Lloyds Bank's chief economic adviser, says: "If pushed, I would suspect that we are likely to see average inflation of around 4 to 5 per cent over the next five to ten years." At 5 per cent inflation, the buying power of a fixed pension will have been reduced by 40 per cent after 10 years and 60 per cent after 20

years. There is a substantial difference in the starting income from a fixed pension and an index-linked pension.

Lynne Davis, pension specialist at Clay & Partners, the actuaries, points out: "Insurance companies tend to be fairly pessimistic in their expectations of future inflation. So if they build on an assumption of 3 per cent inflation and it reaches only 4 per cent, you will have paid for something you won't get. But you will, of course, be covered if inflation goes through the roof again."

At Legal & General, a man of 60 would currently get about one third less pension if he opted for an index-linked annuity. It can take a long period before an index-linked, or increasing pension, has provided the same total amount as a level pension. Although Mr Spill explains:

"In simple monetary terms, the insurer aims to leave the pensioner no better or worse off over his average life expectancy than if he had taken a level pension."

In the example shown, at an escalation rate of 3 per cent a year, for example, the pensioner would break even after 16 years. With an index-linked pension, if inflation were 6 per cent a year, it would take 15 years, but if inflation were less, it would take longer."

Denis Gamster, pensions director at Skandia Life, is sceptical about escalating pensions. "You only really benefit if you stay alive long enough. It means you are taking a tremendous gamble." Brian Symonds, corporate pensions manager at Sun Life, agrees: "If you take an index-linked or escalating pension and you and your partner die early, your pension dies with you, and both you and your dependents will have lost out."

"I personally believe it is better to take the highest pension, but save as much of it as you can. This means your children can benefit from it if you die early or if you live to a ripe old age you can use it yourself to buy a capital-protected annuity later."

Mr Symonds suggests a compromise. "If you are unsure, there is nothing to stop you asking for half of your pension to be index-linked and the other half to start off at a higher fixed level."

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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Leaseholders look forward to windfalls from reforms

BY RUPERT BRUCE

LEASEHOLD reform is likely to lead to windfall gains for the owners of short leaseholds on flats and houses in central London, according to Savills, the estate agent.

Yolande Barnes, head of Savills residential research, said that owners of leases with, say, 30 years to run would have the opportunity to buy their freeholds and make an immediate profit if they then chose to sell.

Under the proposed law, holders of leases that were originally at least 21 years long, technically known as long leases, will be able to "enfranchise", that is buy, in conjunction with their fellow leaseholders, a share in the freehold of their home.

The proposals stipulate that the leaseholder should pay at least half of the "marriage value" of the leasehold and freehold plus the "open market value".

The marriage value is the worth of the freehold to the leaseholder. In the case of a short lease it could be quite substantial because there is little time left before the leasehold runs out and the property returns to the freeholder.

The open market value is of less significance on a short lease and represents compensation to the freeholder for loss of ground rent.

At present, the proposed leasehold reforms are in the



Leasehold or freehold: Yolande Barnes, of Savills

form of an environment department pamphlet.

Graeme Scott-Dalglish, a partner in W. A. Ellis, the Brompton Road estate agent, said: "I think we have seen an increase in interest in short leases with the prospect of leasehold reform. More people have been looking at the short leases and we have

put one or two away." In general, buyers were more interested in flats or houses where there was a prospect of buying a share in the freehold, or the whole freehold, immediately, regardless of any price advantage they might gain by waiting for the promised reforms.

Ms Barnes believes that in addition to the obvious bene-

fits for holders of short leases, the proposed laws might lead to gains for holders of longer leases in residential areas where most properties are mortgaged. At present, most lenders refuse to mortgage a property with a lease of less than 50 years. But, she believes, that if leaseholders have the right to buy their freeholds the policy will change.

Ms Barnes said the watershed time after which leases drop significantly in value in such areas is 70 years. "So a lease of say 65 years could go up in the short term."

But the irony of these proposals, according to Ms Barnes, is that while they may enrich the better off in affluent areas, such as London's Knightsbridge, they may do little to tackle the real problem: bad landlords. "Enfranchisement is not always the answer to a bad landlord. In some cases, all people want is a good landlord. One criticism of the legislation is that it does not tackle the problem of a bad landlord in every case."

Some leaseholders will simply not be able to afford the cost of buying their freehold and getting rid of a bad landlord. This could also lead to problems in blocks of flats.

Under the proposed legislation at least two thirds of leaseholders must agree to the purchase, but if one cannot afford to buy, or does not want to, it is difficult to see how the purchase can go ahead.

Salesmen find window of opportunity

BY LIZ DOLAN

DOUBLE glazing salesmen are obviously working overtime. One in three home improvements by Halifax customers over the past year involved installing double glazing. Second most popular was a fitted kitchen (27 per cent) and third, replacement window frames (22 per cent). Two in five of the 1,550 customers asked said they had made some home improvements over the past 12 months.

When asked what they actually wanted to do, customers' tastes became slightly more extravagant, with conservatories, extensions and bathrooms entering the top five. However, double glazing still

loomed large in this list, just 1 per cent behind the most-wished-for improvement, a fitted kitchen (30 per cent).

Scotland and Northern Ireland appeared to be the best hunting grounds for double glazing salesmen, with the product accounting for 36 per cent of all improvements done in those regions over the past year. Midlanders are equally keen on the idea, but do not appear to have put it into practice with such gusto.

While 36 per cent of them want double glazing, only 28 per cent actually installed it recently. On the other hand, although 32 per cent are still dreaming of a new kitchen, 36 per cent have had one fitted within the past 12 months.

Londoners are more likely to be do-it-yourself buffs. They are also keener than most on conservatories and loft conversions. However, northerners are the real loft conversion fans. More than twice as many as the national average converted their lofts last year. Fitting central heating is another northern priority.

People in South Wales and the West are markedly less interested than most in home improvements, although quite a few have brightened up gardens or installed double glazing recently. The South East remains an area of low home improvement activity for the second successive year, probably due to cash problems and falling house prices.

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Quest for equal retirement age goes on

BY ANNE CABORN

ANN Widdecombe, the pensions minister, is in the "final few weeks" of talks before her department formulates its view on the equalisation of state pension ages. The most likely next step is a white paper.

The social security department has had more than 4,000 responses to *Options for Equality in State Pension Age*, the discussion document published last December.

Miss Widdecombe said the responses varied enormously. "You have letters from women in their 50s who think they will be caught by it, which is not so, and you also have a large number of organisations, including the Equal Opportunities Commission, who have submitted very much more considered responses."

"I'm talking to 20 of these groups in greater depth. When all that is over, which won't be for a few weeks, we will first come to a department view and then the government has to come to a corporate view. I think there is unlikely to be an announcement in the near future."

Concerned organisations are keen that the government should, in examining retirement ages, take a wider look at pensions. June Bridgeman,

deputy Chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said: "My view is that the debate about pension ages should be seen as an opportunity to tackle all the glaring defects in the system as it exists now. One of the difficulties is women getting together and focusing their combined voice on all these things and making sure they are just as firmly on the agenda as pension age alone."

Although the consultation period technically ended in June, the government is still accepting responses, which Mrs Bridgeman welcomes.

It was the EOC that supported the European Court of Justice case which in May 1990 decided that pensions were pay and men and women should be treated equally. The government now has to decide at what age pensions should be equalised. According to government figures, equalisation at 65 could lead to a £3 billion surplus, an equal age of somewhere between 62 and 63 would be cost neutral and equalising at 60 would cost £3.5 billion, while at it would cost £53 million. A further option of a flexible decade is more difficult to cost.

According to Miss Widde-



Working for the common good: Ann Widdecombe, left, and June Bridgeman

combe, such factors have to be taken into account because as well as a state pension there are attendant benefits that have to be financed, such as free prescriptions and medical consultations. By the year 2025 there will be two working people for every pensioner.

Miss Widdecombe said: "If we do go down to 60 — and that has not been ruled out — we have to try and maintain

reasonable support services and a reasonable state pension." The role of the occupational pension also had to be taken into the equation.

But the EOC points out that fewer women than men have occupational schemes and are generally penalised because of low earnings, part-time work and time taken out of the job market to raise a family. Many women are not in the

any legislation taking a broad remit and addressing inequalities other than age — such as women's low earnings, the 1985 move from the best 20 years to a lifetime average when calculating Serps and their time outside the job market caring for children and sick relatives.

Miss Widdecombe said existing pensions had positive aspects. "For example, we are the only country in Europe — Denmark has something slightly similar — who offer a woman a pension when she hasn't contributed a penny piece, on the basis of her husband's contribution."

But Mrs Bridgeman said the government should be saying: "What can we do to make this a fairer system which actually matches the reality of people's lives?"

Today's pensioners had different needs and responsibilities. "One of the most interesting things is, you now have pensioners supporting an even older generation of pensioners. I do that myself. I've just passed my sixtieth birthday and I've got a 90-year-old mother who depends on me... if there is one thing I would like to see between now and Christmas, it is a more rational, fair, sensible, socially aware state pensions' provision," Mrs Bridgeman said.

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□ The Law Society's Make a Will Week will run from October 12 to October 18. Research commissioned by the society shows that only 29 per cent of adults have wills. The biggest increase in those making wills in the past year was in the 18 to 34 age group.

□ Gertmore has cut its initial and annual management fees on its International Fixed Interest fund. The initial charge is 3.5 per cent; down

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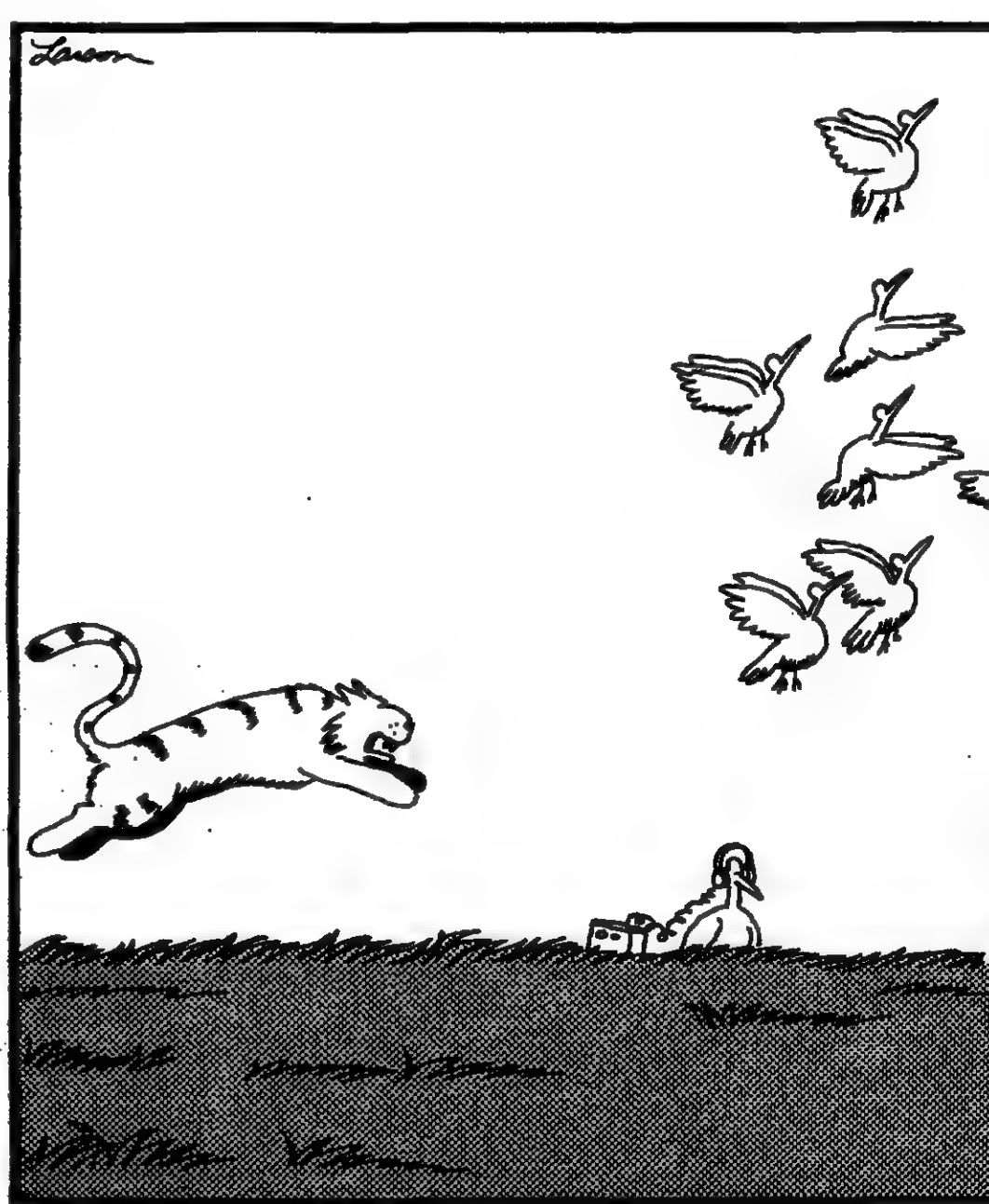
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25-34	~25%
35-44	~20%
45-54	~15%
55-64	~10%
65+	~15%
Total	100%

Before you look to your future, look to our past.

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Late declines

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 21. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day October 12. If forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall dividend figure. If it reaches you have won a share or a share of the daily prize money on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1	ARMCO	Building	10.00	0.10	1.00
2	Boliden	Metals	10.00	0.10	1.00
3	Worm Mining	Mining	10.00	0.10	1.00
4	IMPI	Metals	10.00	0.10	1.00
5	News Corp	Media	10.00	0.10	1.00
6	Advent	Media	10.00	0.10	1.00
7	Telecom	Telecom	10.00	0.10	1.00
8	Marshall	Insurance	10.00	0.10	1.00
9	PWS	Insurance	10.00	0.10	1.00
10	News	Media	10.00	0.10	1.00
11	Consolidated	Media	10.00	0.10	1.00
12	Perkins Food	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
13	Southwest	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
14	Eng China	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
15	Thames Water	Water	10.00	0.10	1.00
16	Rowlandson	Water	10.00	0.10	1.00
17	Hillend	Water	10.00	0.10	1.00
18	Nitin Foods	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
19	Pleco	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
20	Wid of Leather	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
21	Klof	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
22	Seaboard	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
23	Woodside	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
24	Avon	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
25	Novab	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
26	Lincoln Park	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
27	Seam	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
28	Green King	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
29	Westland	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
30	Harris (Pharm)	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
31	Tipkoff	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
32	Argus Plc	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
33	Southern Elec	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
34	Clifford Rd	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
35	Yorkshire Elec	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
36	East Rand Prop	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
37	Yorkshire Elec	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
38	Broken Hill	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
39	Lea (Amun)	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00
40	Stomach Enzyme	Food	10.00	0.10	1.00

Please take into account any minor signs

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES
If you have ticked off your eight share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 01545 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

Mr M Robinson of Birmingham won the £2,000 Portfolio Plus prize yesterday.

1992 High Low Company Price Div % Yld P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	ABN-Amro	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Barclays	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	HSBC	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	London City	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Midland	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	Paragon	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Prudential	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Royal Bank	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Standard Bank	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Windsor	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

BREWERIES

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

BUILDING, ROADS

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

BUSINESS SERVICES

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

ELECTRICITY

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

DRAPERY, STORES

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

ELECTRICALS

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

FINANCE, LAND

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

FOODS

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

HOTELS, CATERERS

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

INDUSTRIALS

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

LEISURE

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
2	Beck's	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
3	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
4	Guinness	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
5	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
6	King	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
7	Miller	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
8	Newcastle	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
9	Stout	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00
10	Tottenham	10.00	0.10	1.00	10.00

INSURANCE

2600	1222	Exxon Corp	10 1/2	9	7.8
2600	1222	Exxon Corp	10 1/2	9	7.8
1400	1222	Exxon Corp	10 1/2	9	7.8
1400	1222	Exxon Corp	10 1/2	9	7.8
1400	1222	Exxon Corp	10 1/2	9	7.8
1400	1222	Exxon Corp	10 1/2	9	7.8
1400	1222	Exxon Corp	10 1/2	9	7.8
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1400	1222	Exxon Corp	10 1/2	9	7.8
1400	1222	Exxon Corp	10 1/2	9	7.8
1400	1222	Exxon Corp			

Smart Mellottie primed for repeat success

MARY Reveley sent Sharp to Ascot from his base in Cleveland last Saturday to win the valuable Festival Handicap.

Now she has equally sound prospects of winning another valuable prize, this time at Newmarket, by capturing the William Hill Cambridgehire again with Mellottie, who is my nap.

His jockey, John Lowe, believes Mellottie is capable of emulating Prince De Galles, the last horse to win it twice, even though it will entail a record weight-carrying performance.

And Lowe should know. Not only did he win this competitive handicap on Mellottie 12 months ago after finishing second on him the

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

year before, he also rode Lash to victory in 1984. Either side of that initial strike he was placed on Dromed and Release.

With only three races under his belt this season, Mellottie will be much fresher than most, Lowe suggested, and he will be in his element on the current ground.

Like Mellottie, Rambo's Hall, Scipio, Cumbrum Challenge and Montpelier Boy are all penalised for recent victories, all achieved with considerable aplomb.

It is impossible not to be

impressed by the way that Mellottie's Hall strode home at the end of his last race, which was his first run for four months.

Wherever Mellottie finishes, Double Endeavour should not be far away in the care of Willie Carson, who will be riding at his lightest.

A winner four times last season, Double Endeavour showed that he is as good as ever at Doncaster last month when beaten a length by Mellottie.

As that was only his second race of the season for her current trainer, Michael Bell, she too will be fresher than most.

No matter how he fares on Double Endeavour, Carson can still enjoy the occasion by landing a double on Self

Assured (1.55) and Perfect Circle (3.00).

Self Assured, my selection for the Oh So Sharp Stakes, was a creditable second in the May Hill Stakes at Doncaster last time, while Perfect Circle, my choice for the Churchyard Park Stakes last month, was a creditable second in the May Hill Stakes at Doncaster last time.

By finishing a good second to All At Sea in the Musidora Stakes at York in May, Perfect Circle proved that today's longer trip is ideal.

She is narrowly preferred to Red Slippers, who also bounced back into prominence at Newcastle last time out when winning the Virginia Stakes in such commanding style.

Reveley: hoping for repeat Mellottie win

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High-level concern over Maktoum cuts

RACING'S rulers were refusing to panic yesterday after the Maktoum family's announcement that they plan to reduce its involvement in the sport in Britain.

The decision to cut back their 800 horses — about 20 per cent of the total bloodstock in training in this country — over the next four years sparked widespread fears that there will be wholesale redundancies and numerous firms going out of business.

The Jockey Club discussed the matter at the highest level yesterday, with both the chief executive, Christopher Haines, and senior steward, Lord Hartington, keeping abreast of events.

But David Pipe, spokesman for the Jockey Club, said: "There's no need to panic at present — I'm sure it would be wrong to over-emphasise the problems."

"Like other industries, racing is in a recession but it is standing up to it remarkably well."

Pipe added: "We appreciate the Maktoum family's frustrations and we are doing all we can to improve matters. But in the end it's the government, bookmakers and punters who put the money into racing."

There was still no firm indication yesterday on the exact scale of the Maktoum cutbacks.

MANDARIN	THUNDER
1.55 Self Assured.	1.55 Self Assured.
2.30 Darakh.	2.30 Affaire.
3.40 Perfect Circle (nap).	3.00 Perfect Circle (nap).
3.40 Mellottie (nap).	3.40 Mellottie.
4.15 Further Flight.	4.15 Further Flight.
4.45 Nicker.	4.45 Nicker.
5.20 Iron Merchant.	5.20 Stirling.

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 1992

Beyond the angels' trampoline

On a wine tour of Chile earlier this year, Ralph Steadman recorded in words and pictures his 'kaleidoscopic battering'

February 24 1992: The weather is balmy, without humidity, and is very comfortable. People have a gentle disposition and dark hair predominates. I am the only white-haired balding person on the bus we are taking to Valparaiso. The architecture is either modern or jerry-built with a few scattered pieces of colonial elegance, lonely and dust-laden among the cheap signs of old shops and decorations painted directly on to brick walls.

The roads are jammed with blocks of buses trying to negotiate traffic lights, which only incense the Latin temperament. Horns blast and orchestrate the tempers of drivers to a crescendo going nowhere. Relax. It's not too hot; relax. Nothing lasts forever. The bus lurches every five minutes and we descend into hell through the seven stages of purgatory. Was it William Burroughs I saw shuffling along in Valparaiso?

February 25: Today the Andes don't exist. We drive two hours on the Pan-American Highway through heavy mist, and visibility is about 200 yards. Beyond is just a white background — nothing. The Andes could be a myth, or a huge theatrical cardboard backdrop. We drive through the Maipo valley at the narrowest point in all of Chile — a mere 90 kilometres (56 miles) from the Argentine border to the sea. As we enter Rancagua the sun begins to burn through the mist, but a haze persists. We cross many dry river beds and quite suddenly strike the sunlight and a clearer atmosphere. The mountains rise up beyond the flat valley floor. Huge sweeps of sunflowers and fruit plantations stretch away towards the foothills.

The long journey to Curicó is made longer by not knowing how far it is, or even whom we are going to see. We pass the most English of locations, weeping willows with twisted trunks sloping up from the banks of a fast, clean-flowing river. We arrive at the house of Pedro Grand, owner of Nogales, a company which, along with Montes, forms part of a group known as Discover Wine. This group was established in 1988 by four people with wine in common. They had realised that a big operation was not necessarily the road to success with Chilean wines, and that quality and individual expression might be Chile's leading asset.

With every climatic advantage on their side, the four men, Aurelio Montes, Pedro Grand, Alfredo Vidaurte and Douglas Murray, set out to prove that accessibility, understanding, guidance and, above all, a sympathetic love of the essence of wine were elements to be

nurtured and passed on to a still sceptical world. Our hostess, Señora Grand, rings her little bell and the next course is served. The Grands have been together 35 years and they obviously run a comfortable operation. Pedro crafts woodwork of the highest quality and has knocked up all of their exquisite "antiques". When their sumptuous Visitors' Book is produced for me to be let loose on, I foolishly get bogged down trying to capture something of the magic all around us. I start with a ballpoint and fountain pen. So far so good, then impulsively I pour a half glass of wine over the page — the improvement doesn't last long, and dribbles off the page and down the book's solid wad of virgin paper. My host looks nervous. I need colour, I explain. Don't worry, it's not finished yet. He smiles wanly, like someone who has just swallowed an oyster for the first time and is asked if he liked it. Anna (Steadman's wife) produces a polythene carrier bag full of watercolours, pens and inks. I fumble expertly and open up a box of watercolours, call for water and pursue a line of hopeless endeavour which normally I would abandon and start again. But this is Pedro's new book and Pedro is expecting magic. Someone brings me a cup of coffee so that goes on to Pedro's book too. Who knows, this may be the stuff of magic.

Señora Grand comes over and is obviously an expressionist streak. She loves the effects of moving pools of Cabernet Sauvignon and black coffee. Pedro relaxes.

February 28: Today, we are moving north up the Pan-American Highway. The day starts well. Anna has packed in the early hours for some restless reason and quite by accident commits an act of mindless terrorism. She packs my carefully blended stash of whisky. Somehow, the cork is not in the bottle, even though the bottle is in its box. The whole lot glugs into our underwear, and whatever else is in what we euphemistically call our overnight bag. In the lobby we can disguise it no longer. My breath smells of garlic from the plate of baby eels I consumed last night, and the lobby reeks like a wino's doorway. I am in a state of shock. The journey does its best to distract me. There are mountains from one end to the other; the horizon of the whole of Chile is a mountain range. Goats are reared here among the rocky desert terrain, living off the tough scrub. Then they are slaughtered and offered for sale to passing motorists. We pass a river, and the locals offer



Artist's impression: Ralph Steadman painted as he travelled, but wrote: "What I am seeing can never feel like reality, particularly afterwards. I will never believe it completely."

crayfish by the side of the road. We pass a series of rubbery-looking mountains called the Angels' Trampoline, which fold in on themselves like perished sponges.

We cross a gasping desert region beyond Valparaiso. As the sun drops in the west, the red landscape burns, glows and glimmers in the diminishing light. When the sun drops out of sight, the sky flames like a giant oven and its light becomes the inner light of the endless Andean range.

Tiny shacks, the personification of frightening loneliness, stand out like beacons. The shacks declare the futility of man against the odds. Lights glow from within, telling us that someone exists inside these pathetic pieces of real estate like mice in discarded packing cases. How a human being can endure such desolation and still find a reason for living is too oppressive to understand. Maybe Moses led his people to this place and not to the Holy Land. Some left, but a few stalwart believers remained in their promised land, waiting for salvation.

February 29: An early morning swim sets the mood for this leap year day. Today we will reach the Atacama Desert, the object of our journey. The conquistadors had travelled this whole expanse and survived to conquer. Just between Caldera and Chañaral we come across an extraordinary shrine among gargantuan rock forms, like a giant graveyard. The shrine of Santa Gemita has steps to its top with crude radiating sticks and a flag. A cross has been fashioned out of wood, and old car number plates,

created a rich patina of shapes miraculously avoiding the kitsch that religious shrines often employ. The place emanates an aura of mystery and dark ages. The stones have many eyes and many faces. The spirits of the stones speak sombre thoughts; walking between them animates their shapes. It is nature's own sculpture exhibition. Both God and the Devil were at the opening.

We enter the real desert in the height of the afternoon. The bleached aridity shines and glistens in the sun and smoulders in a dust-and-ochre haze. Vultures glide aimlessly along the single goods rail track, black against the light ochre. You can see them for miles — and they can see you.

The earth turns redder and scorched, rather like the inside of a furnace where the fire stones have been burnt in different shades of temperature. The shapes get deeper and fold into rucks, holding their shape from the time they first cooled and lost any fluidity for eternity.

In the mid-afternoon heat, the Valley of the Moon draws us inexorably towards it, but only because we have decided to go there. The road becomes a sharp-edged track and a craggy, rock-formation access. In a four-wheel-drive Jeep with thick tyres there is a 50-50 chance that you could make the journey back again. In a two-wheel-drive Honda with thin tyres, your chances of a return journey to some form of life on earth are reduced to a 5-7 against bet, with odds in your favour. Only because the bookies would feel sure they would never see you again.

The only things that make the journey seem like a reasonable risk

are the confidence of our driver, Douglas Murray, who hails from these parts, and the certain knowledge that there is actually life at the end of this stone track in a village called San Pedro de Atacama. All around us the landscape says "No". No, there is nothing beyond here, nothing but the brutal denial of warm existence. Not even the odd scorpion or a lean snake with an interesting bite.

The real problem, however, is the landscape. Its changing forms are so diverse that you feel sure that just round the corner there is another surprise that makes the whole tortuous experience worthwhile. Your mind transports you to the surface of the moon and, to maintain your sanity throughout the kaleidoscopic battering, you think of Mars, too.

We assume there is no life on Mars, simply because our spacecraft landed on a bit of Mars that looked like this. It is easy to convince yourself that there is nothing else. Nothing has moved since the dawn of time. If you throw a rock, you have probably violated a piece of earth which has not moved since then. Except, perhaps, for the Indian who sits in the sun and polishes the dust off a pure chunk of crystal in the hope of a sale. The strangest thing is that you cannot even find it in you to say "buenos dias", and neither can he — each lingers inside a natural acceptance of the other's presence. Neither of you should be there, if you had any sense.

But you are both there, a living testament to each other's existence, and while he has grown used to such weirdness you have only just

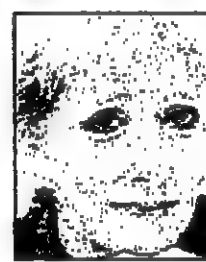
begun to absorb the desolation. There is no sanctuary here, nor pity. You are alone, even with friends. This is no picnic site. This is the end. You are face to face with nature's absolute disregard for you or your well-being. You are there on account of your own impulses and you are there to test yourself against the pressure of loneliness that such a desert exerts.

Through a rock entrance you turn a corner and there before you, shimmering in the heat, are the three wise men turned to stone — a configuration of rocks. The strangeness of the myriad changes and constant variety of rock forms draws you in. Sulphurous shades and an almost suffocating dryness hypnotise the brain. Breathing is short and difficult. The air is hot and thin. Odd gusts of desert wind whine mysteriously in the quietness. Some way off a whirlwind goes by, an intangible moving shape on the landscape.

Complex attempts at creative photography occupy my mind best and I fiddle with filters, smear inks on to clear plastic and complicate the vision in front of my eyes. Random experiments, impulsive and extreme, are merely a confused response to something already too weird to improve upon. But to try, just because I am here, is all that matters. A photograph is too fundamentally literal, a matter-of-fact record of natural fiction. What I am seeing can never feel like reality, particularly afterwards. I will never believe it completely. It will always be a dream, a walk on the wildest side of nature.

● The Grapes of Ralph by Ralph Steadman is published by Ebury Press on October 15, price £14.99. ● See page 5 for the best Chilean wines.

REAR VIEW p18



Blinking in the
sunlight, Lynn
Truss reports on
the PrixItalia

FOOD AND DRINK p4



The making of a
master chef:
Pierre Koffman's
road to his
Tante Claire

Bachelors, spinsters and the benefits of the natural method

Making a pass isn't easy, especially if you think you are past it

Some weeks ago I began to talk about starting an agency for "top" spinsters and bachelors. My instinct was partly charitable and partly self-aggrandising. Eligible bachelors are a commodity in regular demand when you work on a glossy magazine, as I do, and when compiling a leisurely list one day I was surprised to see just how many were currently available.

I circulated the list to a few spinster friends, partly to show off how many eligible men I knew about and partly because the plight of the modern spinster is a subject dear to my heart, having very nearly been one myself. Plus, having worked for six years on glossy magazines, I have witnessed at first hand the phenomenon of a

group I have dubbed "mag-hags" — pencil-thin, highly intelligent ravine beauties, kind and good with wonderful personalities — who, because they work on glossy magazines, never meet a heterosexual man, let alone marry one. "Marriage is all to do with safety and recognition — you marry someone from the village, or someone who is a friend of a member of your family — someone with whom you come into regular, natural contact," an elderly spinster once theorised to them, and it seemed to ring true.

If you are roughly 30, think of all the people you know who are married. I will bet that most of them met at work or university, or were members of the same social

set, introduced by a network of brothers or sisters. My elderly friend had never married because, despite being attractive, she was an only child whose parents lived army lives in Kenya while she lived in London. With no family network and no job, the years rolled by, and each year she was still single. "I could obviously get men," she says. "I used to meet them at parties but then I would never meet them again in a natural context unless I set something up. There was always so much pressure. People would invite



WEEKEND
voice
Mary
Killen

me to dinner with a spare man who might well have liked me, but it was always make or break, and if one didn't fall violently in love on the first meeting then one always had

to set up a second meeting, which put pressure on as we each knew that we would not see each other again unless we fell in love. If we had had time to get to know each other naturally, I am sure I would have married one of these men.

Having begun to compile a suitable list of eligible spinsters, I started joking about setting up an agency to introduce the sets to one another. I never really would do this, but I was inundated with deadly serious requests to do so from both men and women, and almost daily someone

will ring me to advise me of another "top" spinster or bachelor who wishes to join my list.

Where will it end? I have introduced five or six pairs of people to one another and they have liked each other. There has been one regrettable incident where the lips of the couple concerned did meet, but then the man decided that, though he liked the woman, he found her indecisiveness and compulsive lateness too irritating to consider her as a permanent partner. These bachelors get a bit crusty if they have lived on their own after the age of 30.

Of the others, well, they fancy each other in theory, but when you get to a certain age, making a pass becomes embarrassing. For men

especially, pass-making is so fraught with the horrors of rejection that many of them are simply not prepared to do it. Only if they have indisputable evidence that the woman definitely fancies them will they have the nerve to make it a lip-on relationship.

There are two couples I am monitoring at the moment. All concerned clearly fancy their partner, but each is reluctant to make the first overture. When I press them, they come up with excuses about how they are not really suited to one another, yet I am perfectly sure that if they were trapped together in a lift everything would be OK.

I am trying to find a way of bringing this about.

"An engine that moves
In predestinate grooves."

Writing earlier this century about trams, M.E. Hare could hardly have devised a more apt description of the automaton. During the 1890s, these reached new levels of mechanical sophistication. Today, fine pieces like this Roulet et Decamps waltzing cat, to be sold at Sotheby's in November, can command thousands of pounds at auction.

If you have any similar automata, toys or dolls that you might be interested in selling please contact our resident expert for free valuations, advice and any further information regarding our next sale in January.



A Roulet et
Decamps
musical
waltzing cat
automaton
detail, c.1890.
Estimate:
£4,000-6,000.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS SALE: 31ST OCTOBER.

Our sale in January will include fine toys, dolls, teddy bears, costume, music boxes and automata. If you would like to include your own pieces in this sale, please contact Jon Baddeley on (071) 408 5205 as soon as possible.

THE WORLD'S LEADING FINE ART AUCTION HOUSE
SOTHEBY'S
FOUNDED 1744

THEATRE

LONDON

THE BEST MAN: Trouble ahead for a groom nostalgic for the Swedes and a bride-to-be who's not so sure. New play by author of the excellent office-play *Sweet as a Nut*. Warehouse Theatre, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (081-680 4060). Previews from Fri, 8pm.

COLQUHOUN AND MACBRYDE: Sometimes witty but hollow study of two Fitzrovia painters who drank heavily and are now forgotten. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Ariel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Penny Dornie, Danny Webb and Hugh Ross make up the cast. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.



Richard Bonneville in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*

THE DYBBUK: Katie Mitchell's thrillingly convincing Hassidic community where the supernatural presses in on all sides. Joanna Pearce superb as the girl possessed. The Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Today, 2pm, 7.15pm.

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA: Dinah Sniab plays the grim mother in Katie Mitchell's production of Lorca's last play. New translation by Matthew Garte. 11 Pembroke Road, W11 (071-228 0706). Previews Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens Fri, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's astonishingly powerful resurrection of Priestley's drama of social responsibility. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.15pm.

THE INVISIBLE MAN: A cracking revival of last year's production, prior to a West End run. Amazing stage tricks devised by Paul Kiev. Theatre Royal, Gerry Rafferty Square, Stratford, E15 (081-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 2pm.

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY: Larks in the hospital common room; mutton outraged; doctors fumed. Ray Cooney faces with lots of laughs. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

JUNE MOON: Naïve songwriter conquers Tin Pan Alley. Delightful comedy by Ring Lardner and George S. Kaufman. Excellent cast led by Adam Godley and Frank Lattanzio. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 6301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 135mins. Last week.

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN: Chita Rivera is the vamp in Harold Prince's production of the Kander & Ebb musical, based on the celebrated play about fantasists in a prison cell. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Previews from Thurs, 8pm.

THE MADRAS HOUSE: Roger Allam heads a strong cast in Granville Barker's proto-feminist, serious comedy, set in a fashion house. Lyric, Hammersmith, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Last week.

MEDIA: Diana Rigg gives a cool, distancing interpretation in Euripides' revenge drama. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

PERRIER PICK OF THE FRIDGE: More goodies from Edinburgh. Second week's programme stand-up comedy from Kevin Day — or *What?* (Tues, Wed, next Sat, 7.30pm); drollly unhelpful hints in John Shuttleworth's *Guide to Stardom* (Thurs, Thurs, next Sat, 9.15pm); Ben Miller's search for the lost leader, *Gone with Noakes* (Thurs, Fri, 7.30pm); Bruce Morton's guide to the Seven Deadly Sins (Wed, Fri, 9.15pm). Puncell Room, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800).

POST MORTEM: First professional performance of Noel Coward's 1930 play, large cast led by Sylvia Sims, with Harry Burton as the ghost of her older son. King's Head, 115 Upper Street,

N1 (071-226 1916). Opens Tues, 7.30pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, Sun, 3.30pm.

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE NICK: Terrific performance by Alcon Steadman as the raucous slattern in Jim Cartwright's play about dreams, shyness and horrible mothers. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, mat Tues, 2.30pm.

SOMEONE WHO'D WATCH OVER ME: Excellent playing by Alec McCowen, James McDaniel and Stephen Rea as Beirut hostages in Frank McGuinness's new play. Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071-838 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

THE STREET OF CROCODILES: Théâtre de Complicité presents the nightmare world of Bruno Schull. Amazing effects, bewildering storyline. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm, mat next Sat, 2.30pm.

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA: Wonderfully funny production by David Thacker. A tonic for the autumn. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews from Thurs, 7.15pm.

VALENTINE'S DAYS: Show's *You Never Can Tell* with music added and a libretto by Benny Green. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

WHO SHALL I BE TOMORROW? Joanna Lumley plays an out-of-work actress doing the rounds in Bernard Kops's two-hander. With Harry Landis, Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Prowse's triumphant RSC production. John Carls as a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama laced with wit. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

REGIONAL

GLASGOW: Autumn season continues with a modern retelling of *Venus and Adonis* where the mortal would rather be left alone (Thirio Theatre, preview Tues, opens Wed). *Not About Heroes*, Stephen Macdonald's fine drama of the meeting between Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon (Second Theatre, preview Wed, opens Thurs). *Sweet Bird of Youth*, Tennessee Williams's first stage success (First Theatre, preview Thurs, opens Fri).

LEICESTER: Julia Bardsley's company for *Lorca's Blood Wedding* includes Natalia Romero, a singer from Andalusia. Haymarket, Belgrave Gate (0533 539797). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens Oct 13, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

OXFORD: Love, song and the perils of hypnosis: Nancy Medler's touring production of *Trilby* & *Swinging for Shared Experience*. Playhouse, Beaumont Street (0865 798600). Wed-Sat, 7.30pm. Mat Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE PLAYERS (15): Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman from Michael Tolkin's novel. Tim Robbins as the studio executive who kills a writer; plus cameo galore. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683).

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Definitive performance: Willard White takes the lead in *Porgy and Bess* (see Opera)

of Peter Hall's 1989 *Porgy*. Nicholas Fawcett sings the title role. Regina Nathan is Suesanne, Juliet Booth the Countess, Ralf Lukas the Count. The young Italian conductor, Marco Guidarini, makes his debut with the company. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), Tues, 7.15pm.

RIGOLETTO: Rosa Mannion sings Glia, Michael Lewis is Rigoletto and David Maxwell Anderson is the Duke in this revival of Patrick Mason's efficient and effective production. Paul Daniel conducts (except on Friday, when he is replaced by Martin Pickard). Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459551/440971), tonight, Mon, Fri, 7.15pm.

POREY AND BESS: Trevor Nunn's magnificent 1986 Glyndebourne production of Gertrude's opera arrives at Covent Garden with its outstanding cast pretty much intact. Willard White as Porgy, Cynthia Haymon as Bess and Damon Evans as Sportin' Life repeat their definitive performances. Andrew Utton conducts. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), Fri, 7pm.

URB: Alfred Jarry's scatological fable — a biting satire of power and corruption or a lot of schoolboy nonsense, depending on how receptive you are to laudatorial humour — is reworked by composer Andrew Toovey in this new opera for Music Theatre Wales. Michael Rafferty conducts. Not, apparently, suitable for children. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Mon, 7.45pm.

JAZZ

MICHEL PETRUCCIANI: Effortlessly lyrical jazz from this accomplished French pianist making a welcome one-off appearance. Queen Elizabeth Hall (as above), today, 7.45pm.

SOHO JAZZ FESTIVAL: Among the highlights this week are a free afternoon of modern jazz featuring Bheli Meleku, the Ed Jones Quartet and hooper Will Games (Golden Square, today, midday-7pm), a Cajun music evening with John Delefosse and his band on their first trip to Britain (Notre Dame Hall, Leicester Square, Mon, 7.30pm) and up-and-coming tenor saxophonist Harry Allen with the guitarist Herb Ellis (Pizza Express, Dean Street, Wed, 9.30pm). Ronnie Scott's offering is the dynamic Jamaican pianist Monty Alexander with singer Media Joyce (every night until next Sat, 8.30pm).

Salvo Jazz Festival: *Headline* (071-434 3995).

THE SHAMEN: Techno dance music from the electric duo riding ecstatically high in the charts with "Ebeneszer Goode". Brixton Academy (071-326 1022), Fri, 9pm-6am.

THE NEVILLE BROTHERS: Sweet soul music with an R'n'B edge from this fine band performing a one-off concert with interesting support from emotive acoustic singer-songwriters Indigo Girls. Haverhill Odeon, London W6 (081-741 4668), today, 7.30pm.

MANIC STREET PREACHERS: The tattooed rockers currently in the charts with a curiously up-tempo rendition of "Theme From M*A*S*H", hit the road for some live gigs. Exeter University (0392 263528), Mon, 7.30pm. Parr Hall, Warrington (0925 34958), Tues, 7.30pm. Tower Ballroom, Hull

(0482 446777), Thurs, 7.30pm. Octagon, Sheffield (0742 753000), Fri, 7.30pm.

LEMONHEADS: The Bossonian three-piece offer classic sounds of summer on their poppy new album *It's A Shame About Ray*. Subterranea, London (081-960 4590), Tues, 8pm. Boardwalk, Manchester (061-228 3955), Wed, 8pm. Old Trout, Windsor (0753 869897), Thurs, 8.30pm.

DANCE

LONDON CITY BALLET: This enterprising young company ends its season in Bromley today with Petrice Bart's production of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* (designed by Peter Cazzulani). Bart has based his version on that of Vladimir Bolshoi, who used the composer's original 1877 score. Tonight's cast features Tracey Newham as the Swan, Graham Rowe as the prince who falls in love with her. Churchill Theatre, High Street, Bromley (081-460 6677), today, 2.30pm, 7.45pm.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE: Having parted ways with artistic director Nancy Duncan earlier this year, LCDT is launching its autumn tour with no success on the immediate horizon. Still, while its future options continue to be explored, the company is offering a strong programme for its regional tour, with works by Mark Morris and Christopher Bruce receiving their British premieres later this month. Tonight the company is in Southampton with a programme including a new work by the Frankfurt-based choreographer Amanda Miller.

SALEEROOMS

TUESDAY: A redemptive (up to £500), a set of green silk slits, circa 1810 (up to £600), ladies' riding boots from the 1920s (up to £120) and kitchenware: dresses of the 1930s (up to £20) are among the wares, and Victorian lavatories as well as kitchen sinks are among the collectors' items in the part-contents sale held by Sotheby's at Lord Harrowby's Sandon Hall, Staffordshire, 10.30am. In London Phillips offer good English and continental furniture including a handsome George III library bookcase with unusual and elegant astragal doors (up to £25,000). Sotheby's today-Tues 08997 3599. Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6602).

EVENINGS OUT

NICHOLAS OWEN NEWSCASTER

6 The new Clint Eastwood film *Unforgiven* appeals to me enormously, not because it's a Western but because the plot sounds terrific and there's plenty of gritty realism. I love theatre too. I used to be an amateur actor, and even considered turning professional until I discovered the joys of auto-cue reading. Like many in my line of business, I very much want to go and see the hostesses play *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* by Frank McGuinness. John McCarthy worked for a company connected with ITN, so we have a special feeling for him, obviously. I was very much involved with the story when the hostesses came back, so this play would have a certain resonance for me. The *Ukayo Paintings* exhibition at the British Museum, featuring Japanese art from the 17th to 19th centuries, sounds exquisite. Everything Japanese fascinates me and I find their style of painting mysterious and delightful. 9

along with a performance of the ever-popular *Rigolotto*. Mayflower Theatre, Commercial Road, Southampton (0703 229771), today, 2pm, 7.30pm.

SKOTE 1991: Thanks to a helping hand from the European Arts Festival, The Place is presenting the fruits of a French initiative to develop new choreography. For a period of four weeks, ten choreographers from ten countries have been working together in Paris, along with members of their companies — dancers, musicians and painters. A selection of the resulting collaborations of 60 artists can be seen over four nights at The Place. Workshops begin on Tuesday; performances on Wednesday.

The Place, 17 Duke's Road, London WC1 (071-367 0031), Wed-Sat, 8pm.

EXHIBITIONS

UKIYO-E PAINTINGS: Japanese "pictures of the floating world" from the Edo period (1600-1868) are chiefly known in the West in the form of colour woodblock prints. But the same artists also regularly made brush paintings; many of them concentrate on the semi-private world of the courtesans and geishas, and often they set up ironic resonances with concealed references to the history or myth of the past. The two-part show has about 100 examples, in the form of screens, hanging scrolls and albums. British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30pm. Part 1 until Nov 29; Part 2 Dec 1 to Jan 31.

ST JEROME: The first of the National Gallery's Themes and Variations series, which will explore a particular theme or subject in art, selects the story of St Jerome. This rather crazy historical figure mysteriously acquired a pet lion in the Middle Ages and was painted with extraordinary frequency, in one or other of his guises, as a cardinal (an office which did not exist in the fourth century) or as a penitent. Crivelli's painting in the Gallery collection is the centre piece, but other depictions include the gallery's Cosimo Tura newly cleaned. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 1765), Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until Dec 13.

RICHARD SERRA CANVAS DRAWINGS: The sculptor has been making "canvas drawings" for 20 years in the margins of his major sculptural work. They are made out of Belgian linen, covered with thick layers of black paint, and cut out to shape as required on site. The show constitutes Britain's first opportunity to see this side of Serra's work, and coincides with the exhibition of the large new forged steel sculpture, "Weight and Measure", created specifically to take up the whole of the Duveen Gallery at the Tate.

Canvas drawings, Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, W2 (071-402 6075), Daily, 10am-6pm, until Nov 15. Weight and Measure, Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2-5.30pm, until Jan 17 1993.

JUAN GRISS: The one leading figure of the Cubist period not yet collected together for reassessment, Gris (1887-1927) is finally given a major retrospective of some 60 paintings and 30 drawings. The show concentrates on his Cubist work, showing the various phases in the evolution of his style and reveals him as a more serious, less intellectual artist, than has normally been supposed. Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (071-377 5015), Tues-Sun, 11am-5pm (Wed to 8pm), until Nov 26. Free admission after Tues.

WISDOM AND COMPASSION: THE SACRED ART OF TIBET: More than 160 rare paintings, sculptures and tapestries are brought together for this huge new show of Tibetan art dating from the 9th century to the present day and financially supported by The Times. An accessible introduction to the Buddhist ideas behind Tibet's complex culture, the exhibition offers an opportunity to discover an artistic heritage which has suffered greatly in the violence of recent years. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438), Daily, 10am-6pm, until Dec 13.

THE ART OF ANCIENT MEXICO: A selection of the finest Mexican art with the earliest exhibits dating from ten centuries before Christ. Although the show coincides with the Columbus Quincentenary, it celebrates a civilisation quite different from the culture imposed on Mexico by Spain, with exhibits ranging from austere statues of gods and goddesses to animal pieces. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 3144), Daily, 10am-6pm (Tues, Wed, 8pm), until Dec 6.

THE PAINTED NUDE: Up until the time of Ety in the early 19th century the nude in Britain generally required an excuse, however transparent, in the shape of a subject from classical myth or a Biblical story such as Susannah and the Elders. The nude in painting gradually accepted in its own right

Anxious, lonely wait for the patter of tiny hoofs

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

As I write, I stand at the foot of the last peak to be scaled before I can truly call myself a traditional farmer. I have harnessed horses and learnt to plough, lamb sheep, grown corn and built haystacks. But I have never milked a cow. My first victim stands unaware that an amateurish pair of hands is about to assault her most delicate and providing parts.

This was not what I had planned. On Saturday a local farmer retired and an auction was being held of his lifetime's farming possessions. I planned a late breakfast, a quick fling of the swill at the pigs, and the rest of the day in gentle bidding. The cow decided otherwise.



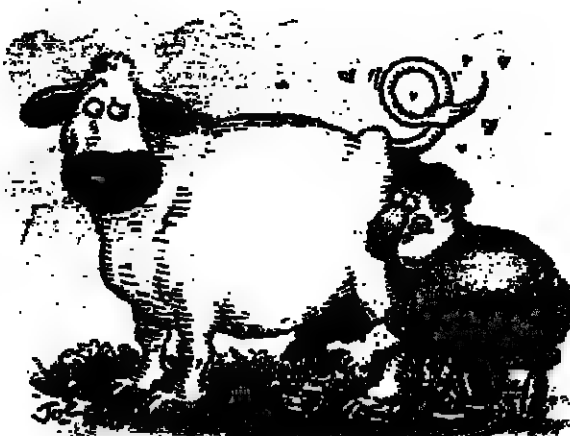
As I rounded the corner of the barn heading for the pigs, heavy swill buckets in each hand, I glanced across to the cow meadow, as I do every morning, and counted the stock. There should be three red blobs, the Red Poll cattle, and one

radiant white beacon, Sage, the British White cow. But the corner of my eye caught not one white blob but two. The first was Sage, the other no more than a white smudge in the grass. I reassured myself that it could not possibly be her calf, which was not due for three more weeks, but feeling uneasy I strode across the field to inspect what I hoped would turn out to be a stray fertiliser bag that had drifted along on the breeze.

As I got nearer it was clear that this was no rubbish; this was a calf with the merest grasp on life. Sage licked it and nudged it but it did not rise to its feet or open its eyes. I breathed with a rasping gasp. I ran back to the house, mind racing, and tried to phone my network of

advisers. Alas, they were all at the farm sale, except faithful Dilly, who said he would miss the first few items to give me a hand.

I lifted the calf, which was heavy despite its pathetic limpness, and summoning all my strength, carried it across the meadow towards the farmyard. Sage followed, anxious and mooing for her newborn son. I carried him half the way but could go no further, and lowered him gently to the ground, where his mother gave him a reassuring lick. Then, with an unaccustomed strength born of desperation, I heaved him once again into my arms and staggered to the yard, where I laid him on the straw in the warm sunshine, and took a good look at him. He looked



a fine specimen, but half dead. I felt his black ears, nose, and white chest: tested his heartbeat, which felt surprisingly firm, and watched his rapid breathing, which had a chesty edge to it. He needed food,

that special first flow of milk that only a mother can provide. But he could neither stand nor suck. We had to milk Sage. We haltered her and with a bowl from the kitchen Dilly relived his golden days as a

herdsman. She kicked him. He persisted. Show this man a wild buffalo and he would have a pint of milk out of it within the half-hour. Squirt by squirt, kick by kick, Sage gave us a cupful, which we poured down the calf. She had no more to give when Dilly left for the auction. "Bid for the thatching ladder," I shouted as he departed.

I was now on my own with a calf I was determined should not die. I knew it needed colostrum — the very early milk — from its mother: a couple of pints at least. I rang a farming neighbour, only to be told that she had thrown away six pints last week.

The calf weakened by the minute. In desperation I scanned my books and found a recipe to be used in such circumstances: bottled milk, warm water, egg, castor oil and cod liver oil. I mixed them, dosed the limp little calf and was rewarded with an opening of the eyes and a

missing of the head. The vet came and injected him with some protective medicine, and I then let him rest and be licked by his mother, and waited for her udder to fill.

Dilly got back from the sale and reported that just as the bidding was getting brisk for the thatching ladder, the auctioneer trod on it and broke it.

It is now late at night and the calf is no weaker. Every pint of warm, though ordinary, milk pushes him a step further along the road to the moment when he can stand up and suck. Meanwhile it is up to me.

He is now lying on straw under the ruddy glow of a heat-lamp, and in the gloom at the other end of the building I can see the ghostly white outline of his mother, checking on me. Her udder, I notice, is filling. I never anticipated that when I grasped hold of a cow's teats for the first time so much would depend on it.

On the trail of animal cruelty

The RSPCA is encouraging children to learn about its undercover operations — and have fun. Jane Bidder reports

One of the most exciting moments in 15-year-old Eleanor Ridge's life was getting up at 5.30am for a wild bird walk in Norfolk this summer. During the expedition, which was part of an RSPCA week's residential holiday camp for children, Eleanor spotted sparrowhawks, goldfinches and skylarks. "It was like entering a secret den; the rest of the world was asleep but there was all this amazing wildlife up and about," she says.

Eleanor, from Enfield, north London, says she can now spot about 20 different varieties of birds, and is one of 70,000 children, from toddlers to 17-year-olds, who belong to the RSPCA's Animal Action Club. This month the club is touring Britain as part of the society's first Animal Squad Undercover Roadshow, to demonstrate the work of the society's Special Operations Unit, which tracks down animal cruelty. (A linked Channel 4 series, *Animal Squad Undercover*, starts on Monday at 9pm — see Lynne Truss's preview on page 18.)

"Obviously we have to be careful not to frighten children, so some of the equipment at the roadshow, such as cockfighting spurs, is placed above their eye level," says Penny Holden, an RSPCA education officer. "But older children are very interested: for example, we have a mock-up scene depicting the cramped conditions which sheep have to endure on trips along European motorways."

"Teenagers will be fascinated by the secret work of our inspectors, who have the ability to appear unobtrusive in any company in order to catch the culprits."

Cracking an animal cruelty case can take months of investigation, using concealed video cameras, before proof is discovered. But the RSPCA, which set up its Special Operations Unit in 1977 to monitor illegal animal practices, has already brought 227 dog-fighting offences to book, made the first prosecution of fox-baiting, and trailed 708 British sheep on a 44-hour journey to an Italian abattoir. Such grim statistics may make us adults wince but teenagers such as

Eleanor, who hopes to work in animal medical research, take a more realistic approach. "I joined the RSPCA this year because I do not like animals being treated badly," she says. "I've organised petitions against bullfighting and importing/exporting parrots. The association has also taught me about animals in general."

For younger children, the RSPCA Roadshow, which starts in Bristol today and finishes in London on October 31, has two other sections, for under-sevens and under-tens. The former will be greeted by a large vinyl mural of a woodland scene. The younger visitors can colour in leaf and animal shapes and stick them on the mural. The under-tens will be shown three large pictures depicting different RSPCA activities. Hidden in the pictures are letters making up a three-word phrase, which competition have to discover. Those who succeed can win club membership (usually £4.50 a year).

The clubs, which meet monthly on local levels, also offer bronze, silver and gold Care Awards. To achieve the first, children must answer animal care questions; for the silver, they have to take up an animal project, such as studying a wild animal in the garden; and for the gold (aimed at 14-year-olds and over) there is a practical exercise, such as working for a vet.

Brothers Christopher and Robert Garwood, aged thirteen and ten, have already started working towards their bronze award. So far, they have been on three club outings: to a nature reserve, to the RSPCA animal hospital in Putney, southwest London, and to a London city farm. "I can't wait to go on the next trip," Robert says.

■ *The next RSPCA holiday — "Horse Riding: animal tracks" — is set for 10-12 Oct. Write to the RSPCA, 100, Mid Wales, Oct 25-31, price £185. The course, which is open to non-riders, teaches over-eights to care for their ponies and includes night riding by torchlight. The holiday is open to members only but newcomers can apply to join at the same time. Write to the RSPCA at Causton, Hoxham, Sussex RH12 1HG. The roadshow itinerary is available from the same address.*



Learning to care: holiday camps are organised for young members of the RSPCA's Animal Action Club

Survival in leaps and bounds

BUSH TELEGRAPH
Simon Barnes

Male impala maintain harems. It is one of the longest-running myths about the bush: perhaps there is something about the limpid eyes and gorgeous, sinuous bodies that gives rise to the notion of adoring, submissive females crowding around and yielding to the masterful male.

But this is a fantasy, one that says more about the perpetration than about antelope. They have a much more subtle way of life. Every year, down here in the Luangwa valley in Zambia, impala civilisation breaks down, and every year it must be rebuilt. And in this, the most severe drought that anyone in the valley can remember, impala civilisation seems more fragmented than ever before.

There is a tendency for short-term visitors to curl the lip at impala. Everyone is crazy to see lion and leopard, so they ignore the antelope. They are so much a part

of daily life in the valley that people simply cease to see them. But I say that a person who is tired of the impala is tired of life. Impala are the quintessential antelope. Their legs are slim as pencils, the fawn coats are artfully set off with touches of jet, and the horns of the male are a bizarre and fanciful lyre shape.

They are incapable of doing anything without grace. When they feel threatened, the entire herd reacts. Each beast performs wild and extravagant leaps in every direction. They can leap 10ft high and 30ft along.

It is a sudden, eye-baffling confusion — deliberately so. It provokes a moment's hesitation in the predator, and — sometimes — that is

enough. A good leap also conveys the message: "I am so athletic, it is a waste of time chasing me."

During the wet season, the impala are scattered all over this enormous park. But in the dry season, they come down from the slopes and congregate near the river and drinking water. And so impala civilisation collapses.

Civilisation is based not on harems, but on territories, and on females who come and go as they

please. Bands of females wander at will across the valley, and each territorial male seeks to keep the female in his own patch for as long as possible.

But it is an exhausting business. It requires constant vigilance and constant chasing. In the end, the females move on, or the male, unable to get enough to eat as he frantically rounds up his females for the hundredth time that day, is displaced by a thrusting and eager rival, fit, fat and ready.

Non-territorial males gather in bachelor herds, tolerating each other so long as they show no interest in the females. Further north, this civilisation remains stable throughout the year. But here, in this intensely

seasonal climate, it breaks down. It has to. Water becomes the most important thing in bringing the impala together, to form large herds of males and females hanging on to survive until the rains. If they come together, impala life now is full of anomalies.

Lagoon after lagoon has dried up; river after river has turned to sand. So the impala cluster closer and closer to each other, drawing predators like magnets as they do so. As you stroll through the bush you meet impala after impala, carefully maintaining its 100-yard flight distance. If you violate this, they are gone.

It is hard for impala, and it will get harder yet. The rains — if they come — are not due until November. This is always a hard time of the year for impala, but right now, it is a hard time of the century.

■ *Simon Barnes is staying with Samanah Trails in Luangwa National Park, Zambia.*

Feather report

Colourful teal make a splash

Ducks can be too domestic to excite some birdwatchers, paddling around placidly or going "up-tail-all" in the pond on the green. But the ducks that come to winter in Britain are wilder creatures, splashing down on some east coast pool or stretch of sea after a long flight from Siberia.

It is a good moment when the teal first appear on reedy lakes or quiet rivers in the autumn. Most of these early arrivals are British birds which have nested on the moors — but they, too, are wild creatures. Startle them feeding in shallow water under the willows and the whole flock rises and shoots through the branches like a single arrow. Come back later, and you find that they have silently returned.

Teal are among the most beautiful of the ducks, which is saying something as the duck family is an altogether handsome group. The drakes have chestnut heads with a curious, comma-shaped band of green through the eye, and a brilliant, emerald-green patch, or speculum, on the wing. The females also have the luminous green wing patch, and an overall silvery gleam in their plumage.

Like most ducks out of the breeding season, teal take life in a leisurely way. As long as the water is not frozen, there is always plenty of weed to eat, or seeds floating on the surface. When they have fed, they lounge around, preening themselves on muddy banks under low willow branches, or sleep on the water, head tucked under wing.

As winter goes on, the drakes start calling. There is no bird note quite like this: it is half-whispered, and sounds now like a whistle, now like a soft bell note. Sometimes a reedbed seems alive with the faint, clamorous sound with the faint, clamorous sound.

Teal are surface-feeding ducks, as opposed to the diving ducks. But that is not an entirely accurate description as they sometimes "up-end" and search for food with their heads under the water.

A particularly vigorous up-ender is the gadwall, a plainer duck which is most noticeable for its black tail. A party of gadwall all up-ending is like a fleet of small black sails.

Wigeon, shoveler, pintail and mallard are all surface-feeders. I always feel that wigeon are peculiarly haunting birds, perhaps because I associate them with early-morning winter mist over a lake, with their sharp whistles — "wheee-oo, whee-oo" — ringing through it. As the mist clears you see them.

often in a large flock, this time looking like a fleet of white sails on the water. As they straighten up and float on the surface of the lake you see what neat, colourful birds the drakes are, with a chestnut head and a strange, mustard-coloured shield above the beak. They come inland to reservoirs and large lakes but are most common on the east coast. Often they come ashore and feed on grass.

Drake shovellers can be identified far away. The bird is like a small flag moving across the water: green head, white breast, chestnut flank. The beak is conspicuous, like a large shoehorn, which the shovellers trundle in front of them through the surface water. They are fairly widespread in Britain in the winter, and some breed here.

Pintails are much more elusive: it always comes as a surprise to find one out on a lake, with its red head and delicate line up its neck, and at the other end its needle-like tail.

As for mallards, they are so common that I feel they get a raw deal, because the drakes are as beautiful as any of their rivals. They do not help their image by flying up with such absurdly raucous quacking when they are alarmed.

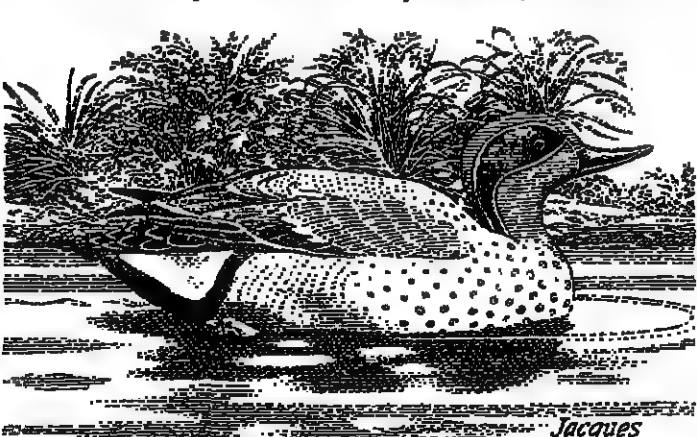
The two commonest diving ducks are the tufted duck and the pochard. They both dive wonderfully, leaping forward with a powerful spring into the water. The black and white tufts have become widespread breeders, and are found even on lakes in town parks. Sometimes British tufts go back east with the winter flocks of immigrants, and become continental birds: these are called "abnigrants".

Drake pochards have unmistakable red heads and grey backs; many are arriving from Russia.

Besides all these are the "sawbills" — goosander, red-breasted merganser and smew — and the sea ducks, notably the eider and the long-tailed duck. The latter two are predominantly Scottish birds. Few sights are finer than a dazzling white eider on the sea below a Scottish cliff top or, more improbable, a long-tailed duck from Siberia seen from an Edinburgh city bus as it goes through the suburbs along the coast road.

DERWENT MAY

■ *What's about: Birds — listen for the thin call of migrating redwings overhead. Twitters — clarine wagtail and red-headed bunting in Shetland. Details from Birdline, 0898 700222*



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Wholesome corn from America

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, celebrates 500 transatlantic years



MUCH of the food we eat is so woven into our culinary traditions that it is hard to imagine the ingredients being anything other than native. But the meeting of the old world with the new world 500 years ago affected the minutiae of our daily domestic life, and continues to do so today.

Wheat and cattle were taken to Central and South America by the Spanish, who brought back to Europe potatoes, corn, turkey, tomatoes, pineapple, chocolate, peppers and varieties of beans unknown here. Some of these I see as "occasional foods", but I find it hard to imagine cooking without tomatoes, potatoes and chocolate.

Even in northern Europe we have come to rely on tomatoes for their unique flavour. And the potato, while not essential to every meal, has unique properties. For example, it combines with and enhances highly flavoured, expensive ingredients, enhancing them, absorbing and multiplying the flavours.

With sweet corn (corn on the cob) still in season, here is a recipe evolved by the German settlers of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Dutch. It is an ideal "Monday soup", if you have had a large roast chicken at the weekend. Take off any scraps of meat, and simmer the carcass to make stock.

Pennsylvania Dutch corn and chicken soup with dumplings
(serves 4-6)
3 fresh corn on the cob
2pt/1.15l chicken stock
seaweed
6-8oz/170-230g chicken meat
3oz/85g flour
pinch of salt
1oz/30g butter, diced
1 egg
water

Peel back and discard the husks and silk from the cobs. Cut off the kernels into a bowl, using a sharp knife, and then scrape down the cob to remove all the milky juices.

Dice or shred the chicken meat. Mix the flour and salt, and rub into the butter. Beat in the egg and enough water to make a thick-dropping batter. Bring the stock to the boil and drop in the corn and any corn liquid. When back to simmering point, trickle the batter, drop by drop, into the soup. Cook for 5-8 minutes more, until the dumplings are cooked, adding the chicken meat during this time. Season and serve.

TO MAKE fritters, soufflés, pancakes and griddle cakes you can use fresh corn scraped from the cob, as above. These are marvellous for breakfast with a little syrup.

Corn griddle cakes
(serves 4)
kernels of 2-3 corn cobs and their liquid
1tbsp self-raising flour
pinch of salt, white pepper
1tbsp buttermilk, yogurt or cream
2 free-range eggs, separated
1oz/30g melted butter

Mix all the ingredients except the eggs and butter. Whisk the egg yolks and butter until pale, thick and foamy. Whisk the whites to firm peaks. Fold the egg yolk and corn mixtures together, and then fold in the egg whites. Heat a well-seasoned cast iron frying pan or griddle, grease it lightly and drop tablespoons of the mixture on to the hot surface. Brown both sides and serve hot.

Potato and wild mushroom bake
(serves 4)
2lb/900g potatoes
up to 1lb/455g mushrooms
½lb/230g onions
seasoning
½pt/270ml stock

Scrub, peel and thinly slice the potatoes. Trim, wipe and slice the mushrooms. Peel and thinly slice the onions. Lightly oil an oven-proof dish or roasting pan and make alternate layers of potatoes, mushrooms and onion, finishing with a layer of potatoes. Season each layer lightly. Pour over the stock, cover with foil and bake in a

moderate oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for 45-60 minutes.

I WAS once taken to Rosa Mexicana, said by many to be the best Mexican restaurant in Manhattan, and served an exquisitely subtle dish of duck in pumpkin seed sauce, or pipian. The elusive sharpness came from the green tomatillo or tomatillo, with its papery husk. This is not easy to find here, but you could use physalis or Cape Gooseberry, which is a close relation, although it will change the colour of the sauce.

In this recipe, I have retained the rich green colour of the sauce and slightly altered the flavour by using a firm, under-ripe kiwi fruit (or you could use a squeeze of lime juice). The recipe works well with chicken, duck and wild duck. Wild rice makes a good accompaniment.

Duck breasts with pumpkin seed sauce
(serves 4)

4 duck breasts, off the bone
3oz/85g toasted pumpkin seeds
1tbsp sunflower oil

1 medium onion, peeled and chopped
1 or 2 green chillies, or more to taste, seeded and chopped
3 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
1oz/30g fresh coriander, chopped
1oz/30g watercress leaves, chopped
½pt/70ml duck stock or water
1 kiwi fruit
salt, pepper

Remove the skin from the duck breasts, season lightly and poach in stock or water for 5-8 minutes. Remove and put to one side. To make the sauce, gently fry the seeds, and then the onion, chillies and garlic in the oil, until the onions are soft and wilted. Stir in half the coriander and watercress and the liquid, and simmer for a few minutes. Peel the kiwi fruit, roughly chop and put in a blender or food processor with the sauce and the rest of the coriander, watercress and seasoning. Blend until smooth, and return the sauce to the pan over a gentle heat. Put the duck breasts in the sauce and cook the two together for 4-5 minutes before serving.

THE best way to tell if a pineapple is ripe is to smell it. Ripe fruit smells of itself; unripe fruit smells of nothing. Avoid any that have bruises or dull, brown patches. I believe that pineapple and kirsch is a waste of two good ingredients, the kirsch completely overwhelming the fruit. For me there are other flavours more appropriate to the pineapple — rum, coconut, ginger and vanilla, for example.

I love pineapple fool, especially when the fruit is mixed with custard rather than whipped cream. Or dice the fruit, fold in the custard, and pile into the hollowed out shell.

Forget about pineapple jellies and mousses, however; the raw fruit contains a powerful enzyme which breaks down protein, the main constituent of gelatine. Cooking destroys the enzyme, but also removes the fresh flavour. It is this enzyme which makes pineapple a suitable fruit to serve after a protein-rich meal. The juice also acts as a meat tenderiser.

Here is a light, fruity dish to serve

as a starter, as part of a buffet or as a relish with spicy meat dishes.

Pineapple and avocado salad
(serves 4-6)

1 medium size ripe pineapple
1 fresh lime
several stems of fresh coriander
1 measure rum (optional)
1 or 2tsp light muscovado sugar
3 or 4tbsp groundnut, walnut, grape-seed or extra virgin olive oil
salt, pepper
2 or 3 ripe avocados

Halve and quarter the pineapple. Cut away the central core and remove the flesh from each piece.

Dice it, or cut into narrow wedges. Grate the lime zest over the fruit and mix in some chopped coriander. Mix the rum, sugar, oil, seasoning and sufficient lime juice to taste to make a dressing. Mix thoroughly with the pineapple.

Halve the avocados, and remove the stone. Peel the fruit, dice the flesh and fold it into the pineapple mixture. Serve from a bowl, in individual bowls, or on salad leaves.

LASTLY, make a few jars of olives and tomato pickle to give as presents, or to serve with cold meats or spicy stews. Cherry tomatoes are just the right size.

Hot and sweet olives and tomato pickles
(fills two 1lb preserving jars)
1lb/455g tender young olive pods
1lb/455g cherry tomatoes
4 red or green chillies
2pt/1.15l distilled vinegar
½lb/230g sugar
3oz/85g salt
2in/5cm cinnamon stick
12 crushed cardamom pods
12 allspice berries

Wash and dry the vegetables and pack into the jars. Split the chillies in half and remove the seeds. Divide chillies between the two preserving jars. Put the rest of the ingredients in a saucepan, bring to the boil and pour over the vegetables and seal.

Ideally, you should leave the pickle to mature for 6-8 weeks before using.

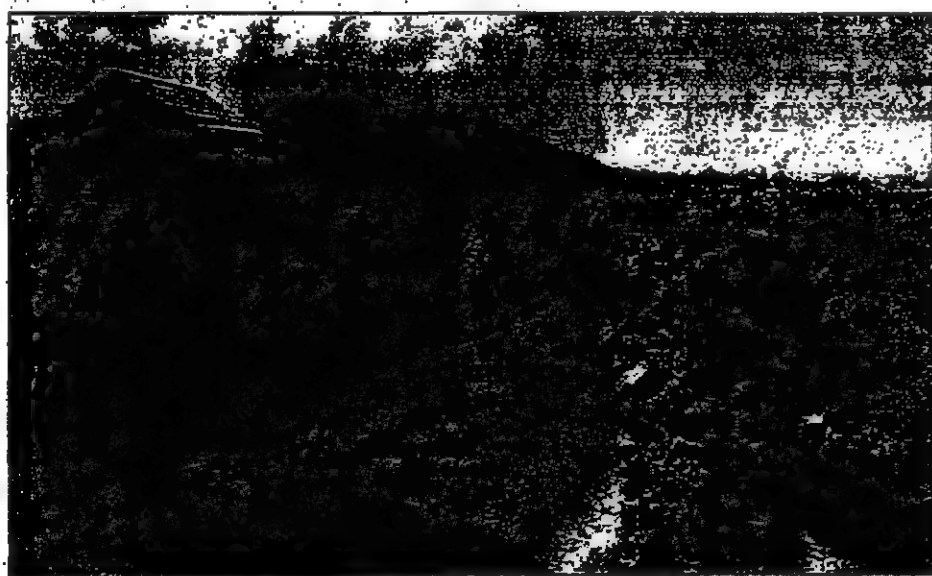
Hot news from Chile

The southern hemisphere has another quality wine producer, says Jane MacQuitty

THE Chileans are coming. While I am convinced that Chile is not and never can be the "new Australia", this southern hemisphere wine outsider has recently battled ahead. Last year Britain imported an impressive four million litres of Chilean wine, twice as much as in 1990, whose figures, in turn, showed a hefty increase on 1989.

Chile, like the southern hemisphere wine producers Australia and the Cape, has plenty of climatic and other advantages over its cold, wet European competitors. Not quite the "viticultural paradise" the Chileans claim, their long, thin country nevertheless has a good Mediterranean-like grape-growing climate. Chile's hot southern hemisphere days are refreshed by cool Pacific breezes, and also tempered at night by cold air from the Andes, to the east. In addition, the snow-covered Andes mountains provide clean, clear irrigation water for crops. The fertile central valley round Santiago is the home of Chile's best wines.

Brilliant light and luminosity further encourage grape growth in Chile, just as they do in Australia, shortening the vine's cycle. Chile also benefits from a variety of light, fertile, often sandy, soils and few pests and vine diseases trouble its wine producers. But Chile's greatest advantage, over every other wine-producing country



Natural choice: desert, ocean and mountains help to protect vineyards from aphids

in the world, is its phylloxera-free vineyards, due to its sandy soil and natural barriers of the Atacama desert, Pacific ocean and Andes.

Avoiding this aphid devastation, Chileans do not need to graft vines on to resistant American root stock, and their quick-growing and ungrafted vineyards are still thriving at a century old.

With so many natural benefits over their competitors, including the importation of a wide range of top French grape varieties in 1851, why have Chilean wines taken so long to do well here? The short answer is that Chile's grape-growers and winemakers have done little to take advantage of their natural assets.

Yields are often too high to produce quality wines, and vines are often planted higgledy-piggledy. There is also the problem of the *pais* grape, a lacklustre, black muscat-like grape — Chile's only

native variety — which is still the most widely planted vine. It accounts for about half of the country's 67,000 hectares and 300 million litres of wine.

If Chile's vineyards have yet to reach their full potential, so too do its cellars. Despite the heat, the country did not have its first cold fermentation unit until 1979. Stainless steel, heat exchangers and other high-tech wine weaponry took another decade to be installed everywhere.

In Chile they are also reluctant to throw out their traditional, old, and often dirty beech-wood fermenters and casks. French and American oak casks were introduced in the late 1980s, and the difference between the old and the new red Chilean wine styles is astonishing.

What fired the change between Chile ancient and modern, apart from a more stable economy, was the exposure to

foreign winemakers and their methods, as they began arriving in 1979.

The best Chilean wines are red and made mostly from the cabernet sauvignon grape. I enjoy the uncomplicated, juicy, blackcurrant pastille and Ribena-like flavours, occasionally laced with spicy new oak. The whites include some stylish, zesty sauvignons and lighter, spiky chardonnays.

Unlike Australia and the Cape, Chile has yet to perfect a clear Chilean wine style of its own. In some ways, the French grape inheritance put Chile firmly in the European wine corner. But big, bouncy, new-world flavours are also a feature of every Chilean wine. With Chile's modern wine movement still so young, it will be some time before Chilean wine comes of age. The potential, however, is huge. If the 1980s were Australia's wine era here, perhaps the 1990s will be Chile's.

Best buys

● 1991 Rowan Brook Sauvignon Blanc, Mataquito Valley, Asda £2.99. The Victoria Wine Company £3.49. Rowan Brook's splendid, zesty, gooseberry-green sauvignon is one of the best-value Chilean white wines available.
● 1991 Rowan Brook Cabernet Merlot, Mataquito Valley, Asda £2.99. Not quite so impressive as its white sister, but a good, cheap, juicy plum and blackcurrant-like mouthful none the less.
● 1992 Caliterra Sauvignon Blanc, Curico, Odabins £3.99.
● 1992 Caliterra Sauvignon Blanc, Curico, Odabins £3.99. Each vintage of Chilean wine is better than the last as this deliciously crisp, elegant sauvignon blanc proves.

● 1989 Don Maximiano Estate Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon, Errazuriz Panquehue, Aconcagua Valley, Victoria Wine £6.59, Safeway £6.39 (Odabins carry the '88 for £6.49). Rich, ripe cassis and bramble flavours plus a touch of spicy oak make this reserve wine one of Chile's best reds.
● 1988 Concha y Toro, Don Melchor, Private Reserve, Cabernet Sauvignon, Maipo Valley, Odabins £6.49. Glorious rich blackcurrant pastel flavours backed up by lots of aromatic oak make this a first class Chilean red.

SOUTH AFRICA

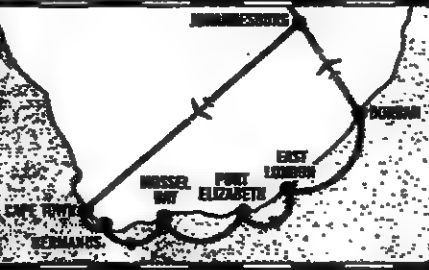
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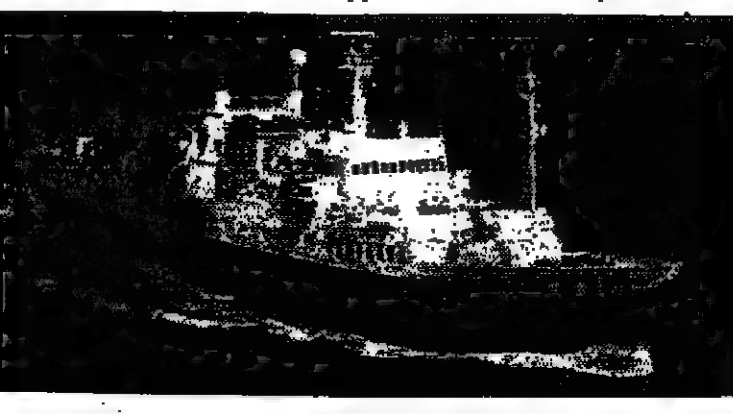
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THE ITINERARY

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DAY 2 Cape Town Arrive and drive to the Arthur's Seat Hotel for a 5 night stay.
DAYS 3, 4, 5 & 6 In Cape Town Explore the Cape Peninsula and the picturesque fishing villages of Kalk and Hout Bay, historic Constantia, Table Mountain, the beautiful Botanic and Kirstenbosch Gardens and then drive out into the wine country of Paarl and Stellenbosch.
DAY 7 Cape Town Drive free until late afternoon embarkation on the MS Caledonian Star. Moor overnight in Cape Town.
DAY 8 Hermanus A day at sea sailing along the coast to the resort of Hermanus. Time free ashore in the resort in the late afternoon.
DAY 9 Mossel Bay The garden route offers some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in the world. Today, we can see why this claim is justified.
DAY 10 Port Elizabeth Visit the city including Donkin Street, a fine example of early Victorian colonial architecture, the British fort and Addo Elephant Park.
DAY 11 East London Straddling the Buffalo River, this attractive city is home to the 'Coelacanth' which is housed in the local museum. Also see the Botanical Gardens.
DAY 12 Durban Arrive in the morning, disembark after breakfast and explore the city before flying to Johannesburg and London in the late afternoon.
DAY 13 London (Heathrow) Arrive in the morning.

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Needlework and gardening are close companions, **Francesca Greenoak** writes

hourly auriculas are also rarities. In their needlework, gardeners of the past have revealed — with an authenticity matched by no other source — the style and contents of domestic gardens, the most popular plants of their period and how they were used in decoration and flower arrangements. Roses, lilies, carnations and tulips have been the mainstay of gardens through centuries. A close look at different forms of needlework shows the

● An exhibition based on Mrs Beck's book, *The Embroiderer's Flowers* (David & Charles, £17.99), will be held at the Museum of Garden History, Lambeth, London SE1 (071-261 1891), from Oct 7 (lecture Oct 14) to Oct 21 (11am-3pm Mon-Sat, 10.30am-5pm Sun; entrance £2.50 for catalogue).



Autumn is a good time for planting perennials: taking advantage of the residual warmth in the soil, which will allow roots to establish before really cold weather arrives. Garden centres don't like to have excess stock over the winter and there are bargains to be found, especially if the plants are no longer in flower. Look out for catmints, kniphofias, penstemons, phytolus in good condition: not rootbound. Plant in well-drained soil with a handful of bonemeal but not nitrogenous fertiliser, which encourages sandy growth.




- Harvest spring-down leeks over the next few weeks (types such as Early Market should not be left in the ground over winter).
- Raise cutting blades slightly for the last mowings of the season.
- Store ripened onions in a cool, dry place.
- Begin to make leaf mould from dead leaves in an out-of-the-way spot (or large polythene bag).
- Roughly rake established lawns or scarify with a machine to remove the thatch of moss and dead grass.
- Take hardwood cuttings from gooseberries.

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IMPORTERS

AUTO

Big fun for the little party people

Jessica Gorst-Williams on how to avoid birthday tantrums and be the children's host and hostess with the mostest

Sorry, but Emma doesn't want to come to your party. "This is the third last-minute refusal in 15 minutes. I take away another plate and paper cup, space the chairs out a little more. Is it parties in general? Or is it something more personal? Even the conjuror's rabbit didn't seem to want to be at last year's party. He popped out of the hat, took one look at us and had a heart attack.

I open the door to the first guest. She's crying. I summon the birthday child. She is lurking in her bedroom unwilling to come down until I go up and whisper in her ear that the child downstairs has an interesting looking box in her hand with a ribbon on it.

It's not only morale that can be broken by parties; they can break your moneywise too. Sharing a party can be a remedy for both.

Last year Sian Galanis spent £90 on an entertainer for Christmas, then four. There were party bags for going home and a lot of food left over.

This year she is sharing with three good friends, all of whom have children of the same age

and about the same mix of friends. Eighteen children will go on the Tenterden steam train in Kent, and have tea specially prepared by someone else — a box including jelly, sandwiches, crisps and chocolate biscuits and a drink — while riding through the countryside.

There will be no party bags to take home. Instead there'll be a bran tub (provided by Mrs Galanis and her friends) with plastic snakes and lizards which will need a bit of finding. Each birthday child will find his or her parents £45. "It will be the easiest party I've given," Mrs Galanis says, "and possibly the cheapest."

The downside to sharing is that your child may miss out on his annual chance to be a star. I know someone who lost a whole birthday this way, gone in a puff of smoke as the girl he was sharing it with blew out all the birthday candles in one.

With very little ones, it is quite easy to go without going broke. You can hire a bubble machine, possibly a mini inflatable as well, play some music and supervise closely. Or hire a costume. As a bear or Tweedle Pie you can keep everything going with Simon Says. Or, even, as someone I know did, hold your own puppet show from behind the sofa. Putting food on individual plates beforehand saves some wastage and stops you having to hand things round.

Four, though, is the magic age. From then on parties need to be planned with clockwork precision. Going out is certainly a tempting option. It need not be expensive. You can also choose a setting where the birthday child will shine, swimming, skating, ten-pin bowling, depending on what they excel at.

Many rather unexpected places will cater for children's parties, provide balloons, tea and something to do, all at a reasonable rate, so it's well worth giving your local tourist attraction a ring and asking. Don't forget the local pantomime, either.

If you are having a party at home, let a party entertainer take at least part of the strain, and keep the time down to a maximum of two and a half hours.

An event of mine that made quite a splash started when I hired a giant turtle and put it on quite a small table, surrounded by some bored looking three-year-olds. It must have been the warm room that set off the trickle. I fetched a kitchen towel, swabbed a bit and discreetly went away, while someone began telling the children how to learn to like reptiles. By the time I came back more kitchen towel was needed. Soon a whole roll had gone. I couldn't keep up. I had to crawl under the table while the awestruck children moved backward watched as a tropical began to pour down — half over me — from all four sides of the table.

That was seven years ago. The other day my son was speaking to a friend. "Remember the turtle?" he said. "Oh yes," she replied, giggling uncontrollably. "I'll never forget it. It was wicked."

Next week: Increasing the fun — and the cost



Party line: all set for a trip on the Kent and East Sussex Railway. The fare includes sandwiches, crisps, jellies and soft drinks on the train

SOME ideas for party fun, starting with places that will run your party:

LONDON

□ **Horsham Museum and Gardens, 100 London Road, London SE23 3PQ (01-599 1874)**
Tour museum, and see aquarium, including giant walrus. Tea with streamers and balloons, sausages, sandwiches, crisps, ice-cream £5.50 each. Birthday cake £15. Party bags £1.

□ **Toy Museum, 21 Craven Hill, near Paddington station, W2 3EN (01-262 9450)**
Fun area set aside for parties, with indoor rides on vintage train and roundabout. £20, plus £1.50 per child. Food can be provided.

□ **Wembley Stadium, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0UD (01-902 8833)**
Guided tour (minimum ten children). Birthday cake, hot, cold or kosher roasts. Birthday cakes £13.50. Party bag £6.95.

OUT OF TOWN

□ **Badminton Park Farm, Crumpton Road, Mafford, Kent (01892 832549)**
Offers complete party, including free train, old breads, buttery farm, and extras such as ball pond, butterfly house, mouse house and tractor or pony rides. Present in animal-shaped party box for everybody. Balloon. Wide choice of food. £6.50 per child (includes four adults free).

□ **Blean Bird Park, Honey Hill, Blean, Canterbury (0227 471666)**
Magical place. Party with balloons and food and entrance fee under £5 per child.

PARTY-GIVER'S IDEAS GUIDE

□ **Regley Hall, Alcester, Warwick (01827 762090)**

Parties in Regley Cabin, next to adventure playground. Home-made cakes, sandwiches. About £5 each.

□ **Happy Eaters nationwide**
Enquiries to head office: 52-54 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FF (01-734 9681)

□ **Toy Museum, 21 Craven Hill, near Paddington station, W2 3EN (01-262 9450)**
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□ **Leisure centres nationwide, e.g. River Park Leisure Centre, Winchester (01628 869525)**
Rough guide: minimum 12 children. £2.45 each for use of hall with options including football party, badminton, mini cars. Swimming pool hire from £29. Tea, £2.75 per child (sausages, sandwiches, crisps, hats and balloons).

□ **Canoe Club swimming pools, e.g. Bedford Oasis Beach Pool, Cardington Road, Bedford MK42 0BZ (0234 272100)**
Minimum ten children, maximum 20. £5.50 per child. Birthday cake free. One hour swimming, water and games. Party organiser leads tea with burger and chips and so on. Party games. Birthday cake can be provided.

□ **Ice Rinks**
□ **Nottingham Ice Rink, Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham (0602 484526)**
Skating for half an hour. Food, chips and burgers and so on. £4.50 each.

□ **Basinsgate Ice Rink (0256 840219)**
One hour swimming and one hour skating. Party leader to look after the children. Hot meal. £5.50 per child.

□ **Queen's Queen's Court, Queensway, London W2 4QP (01-229 0172)**
Roped off section (£25), suite hire (£29.50). Skating charge £2.50, skate hire £1.50. About £4 per head for food.

□ **East Somerset Railway (The Strawberry Line), Cranmore station, Somerset (0149 880417)**
Jumbo blow-out £2.95, fare £1.79.

□ **Konney Hyde and Dymchurch Railway, New Romney station, Kent TN28 3PT (0179 623531)**
About £5, including fare and food.

□ **Essex Steam Railway, Cape of Good Hope Farm, Braintree, Essex, Essex (0274 710711)**
Price £5 per child, includes three rides in steam train, cake, birthday tea, balloons.

□ **Quadrant Motor Biking**
□ **The Stable Centre, Back Lane, Cross in Hand, East Sussex TN21 0QB (0435 863537)**
Suitable for children aged seven-13. Four-wheeled 50cc and 60cc motor bikes. Discounts for deprived children.

Two-hour session for up to nine children, £65; ten-15 children, £80. Bring food and eat in large games barn.

ANIMALS

□ **Gerry Cattle, Addlestone Moor, Surrey KT15 2QE (0932 328888)**
Elephants to hire at £1,000 (within 100-mile radius).

□ **Charles Mason, 15 Old Highway, Hoddeston, Here EN11 0LF (0992 446211)**
Reptiles from £100 upwards.

□ **Animals' World, 19 Greaves Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7TU (0494 442750)**
Small animals: £250 including travel.

□ **Party Equipment**
□ **Oscar's Den, 127-129 Abbey Road, NW9 4SL (081-953 8158)**
Hire equipment includes bouncers, costumes. Sells balloons, masks, make-up, party paperware, party tricks.

□ **Frog Frolics, 123 Iffeld Road, London SW10 9AR (01-730 4358)**
Party invitations, prizes, fireworks, costumes. Hire play items, provides birthday cakes. Can organise entertainers.

□ **Score Commodore, West Bow, Edinburgh EH1 2JP (031-225 1357)**
Party goods. Hire bouncy castles (with attendant), candy loss machine. Costumes. Entertainment advisory service.

□ **Theatre Gear, 37a Church Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (0892 525137)**
Hire costumes and sell party wear.

□ **Baroness, 7 Pulney Bridge, Bath (0225 443144)**
Party goods and novelties.

Events

LONDON

□ **Punch and Judy Festival** Shows throughout the day with leading performers, including Professor Perry Press II, Guigal and Cristobal-Polichinella.

□ **The Pizzazz, Covent Garden, WC1, Sun, 10am-5pm**
□ **Family Fun Fest** Series of family fun events, including puppet shows, magic and games in their line.

□ **St Martin-in-the-Fields church, Trafalgar Square, WC2**
Tomorrow, 3pm.

□ **Dreams of Anne Frank** Premiere of a new play for young people, written by Bernard Kops to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the tragic young diarist going into hiding.

□ **Pollin Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, SW19, Epsom (01-543 4389)**
and every Saturday until Nov 7, 2pm and 5.30pm, £5.

□ **Young people's film and video festival** More than 100 films and videos over the weekend, including animation, documentary, fiction and experimental.

□ **NFT and MOMI, Somerset Bank, SE1**
Today, tomorrow. Further details and booking on 071-815 1337/1331.

□ **Bunbury's Spook** Puppet show for older children: a delightful poetic play by Liza. Puppet Theatre Burgis, St Helena Pier, Richmond. Today 7.30pm. Box office (0836 202745), £6, child £4.

□ **NATIONWIDE**
□ **Amble Birdwatching** Guided walks, puppet shows, games, bird box building, films and talks. Celebrity birdwatcher Bill Oddie sets the scene at 10.45am.

□ **Druidry Bay Country Park, near Amble, Northumberland**
Today, tomorrow 10.30am-4pm. £1, child 50p. Further details on 091-232 4148.

□ **Battle of Britain** Flying displays, training demonstrations and a talk about the history of flying with birds of prey.

□ **Battle Abbey, Battle, East Sussex (04246 3792)**
Tomorrow 2pm, £1.50.

□ **Biggleswade Airs** Airshow festival organised by the British Kite Flying Association.

□ **Old Warden aerodrome, Biggleswade, Beds (0767 627288)**
Sun 10am-4pm. £4, child £2.50, under-fives free.

□ **Goodies and Sweets** Today, Lanes and Rotherham's Sweets. Mystery Tour. Tomorrow, a concert by young musicians with all music pre-1850.

□ **Finchcocks, Goudhurst, Kent**
Today, 2.30pm and 5pm. Tomorrow 2.30pm, £4.

□ **Further information and booking on 0500 111702.**

□ **Nesley's "Best of the Best"** Three plays on television, 4.15pm interpretation of King Lear.

□ **Netley Abbey, Netley, near Southampton, Hants (0703 453076)**
Tomorrow 2-4pm. £2.50, child £1.75.

□ **JUDY FROSHAUG**

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LADIES

THE MARRIAGE BUREAU

KATHARINE ALLEN
(Incorporating Heather Jones)
"Matchmakers with old fashioned common sense and a touch of magic."
(London Magazine)
Barnet Road, Barnet, Herts. EN4 8TH
Tel: 071 935 3115

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WHAT TO WEAR

Great British accident



Left
She wears: cashmere cable-knit polo-neck sweater (around shoulders), £465; cashmere cable-knit round-neck sweater, £465; silk scarf, £80; beige wool trousers, £410; suede shoes with crest, £180, all Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1; Harvey Nichols, SW1; Lambwood polo-neck sweater, £50, John Smedley, Harrods, SW1; Square One, 43 St. John's Wood High Street, N8; Jenners, Princes Street, Edinburgh; Fishers, 7 Regent Arcade, Brighton. Socks, £2.99, Sock Shop, all branches. Earrings, £38, Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton Street, W1; 189 Fulham Road, SW3; 33 Princes Square, Glasgow. He wears: corduroy shirt, £80, Polo Ralph Lauren, as before. Long sleeve T-shirt, £29, Paul Smith, 41-44 Floral Street, WC2, 10 Ryard Lane, Nottingham. Cream sweater (on chair), £145, Joseph Tricot, 26 Sloane Street, SW1; 77 Fulham Road, SW3. Cotton chinos, £40.50, Blazer, 33a King's Road, SW3 and branches. Nubuck boots, £129, Paul Smith, as before.

Right
She wears: tweed jacket, £240, Sportmax, 153 New Bond Street, W1; 32 Sloane Street, SW1. Blue sweater with collar, £65, John Smedley, as before. Tan suede jodhpurs, £364, Burberry, 18-22 Haymarket, SW1. Suede desert boots, £165, Fratelli Rossetti, 177 New Bond Street, W1; 196 Sloane Street, SW1. He wears: grey zip jacket with quilted lining, £425, Dolce & Gabbana, Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1; 77 Fulham Road, W1. Check button-down shirt, £40, Blazer, 33a King's Road, SW3 and branches. Blue corduroy trousers, £75, Harrods, SW1. Loafers, £37.99, Shellys, 149 Oxford Street, W1 and branches.

The weekend is a British institution. One day of rest in a weary week may have been good enough for God but, since He is, after all, known to be an Englishman, his companions were pretty confident that He would approve of their improvement. Other nations, awed and envious, noted no obvious retribution and, tentatively at first, followed suit, although they mostly neglected to think of a word of their own for it.

Yet it is tempting to believe that retribution there was and is: a subtle sort of nemesis. Because, although the British invented the weekend, they are, in one respect at least, not very good at it. They can't quite get the clothes right.

You could call it the Great British Accident, the weekend descent into an aesthetic badlands where a miasma of uncertainty clouds the vision and clogs the palate. It renders the shopping malls, the pubs and restaurants of Britain a two-day visual wasteland of saggy jeans, frayed sweatshirts, wilted skirts, pillared jumpers, shiny anoraks, droopy-crocheted track pants, threadbare jackets and grubby-cuffed shell suits.

Accidental and unavoidable scruffiness have always been with us, a consequence of poverty, illness, or a mind preoccupied with higher, more important things than mere appearances. And there have always been individuals who have chosen to affect a down-at-heel, rumpled, threadbare, mismatched and unflattering style of dress in the hope that observers will assume they fall into the last category.

But this is something else. It is not affectionate nor, as many an alienated

Britain invented weekends, says Brenda Polan, so why can't we dress for them?

teenager has employed it, aggressive political statement. Nor is it, as our forebears would have insisted, a sign of vanity, arrogance and bad manners. There is no calculation in it. In the workplace everyone nowadays knows the importance of image, of using clothing and grooming to make a clear statement of status, character and ambition. We know how to dress to make the best impression at a meeting, a conference, a job interview or even a party. In our leisure time, however, we seem to relinquish control.

Perhaps it comes down to a native puritanism. Looking well-groomed, effective and promotable in the workplace is a practical necessity. There is no such justification for effort when pleasing oneself. This particularly applies to men. Compliment him on his appearance in the office and he'll tell you he has an

important meeting. Compliment him at the weekend and he assumes you are ribbing him for being vain.

It makes the retailers despair. On their trips abroad to garner the goodies they hope to sell to the British consumer, they gaze misty-eyed and maudlin upon the pristine polos and pressed chinos that Ralph Lauren's customers don on Friday nights, on the Savile Row tweeds and Burlington Arcade cashmeres of week-ending Italians, on the immaculate, laid-back chic of the French attacking a Sunday morning *grande crème*.

They look at the racks and rails of clothing specifically designed for relaxation, and wonder at a nation that has so far lost its sense of appropriateness, its pleasure in propriety and perfection, that it plays golf in its oldest flannels, meets its girlfriends for Saturday brunch and a mooch round Harvey Nichols in the skirt that's too shabby for the office, and escorts the kids to a tea party in mud-stained sneakers and leggings with terminal bum-sag.

It is not, of course, the object of newspapers to comfort retailers, whatever their plight. It is, however, the proper business of a socially responsible organ to encourage a healthy trend in society when it spots one. This trend started, as most do, with the young. There is a new leisure-time smartness to teenagers. It can't be long before this makes the rest of us feel uncomfortably under-dressed. One of my favourite teenagers has already tactfully asked me to wear a skirt or proper trousers when I take her to Saturday lunch at Joe's Cafe. So it is to prettier, politer weekends that this space is dedicated.

*Fashion by Sarah Newton
Hair and make-up by Liam Dunn
for Mar & Co
Photographs by Chris Craymer
Photographed at the Bibendum
Oyster Bar, Michelin House,
Fulham Road, SW3 and
Les Spécialités St Quentin,
Fulham Road, SW3*

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NEXT WEEK

Victoria Glendinning on the Booker prize

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Alice Thomson gets her wheels on to try another participatory sport

They are worn by actors, policemen, garage attendants, couriers, criminals and schoolteachers. More than baseball and perhaps even apple pie, in-line skates have become a symbol of the American dream. They are fast, clean, sporty, wholesome, individualistic and great for all the family. In-line skates look like a cross between an ice-skate and a roller skate. Instead of two pairs of wheels side by side they have one straight line of wheels with a brake stop (a sort of plastic cord) at the back. They work on any hard surface and can reach speeds of up to 40 miles an hour. They are easier to balance on than conventional roller skates, allow for greater speed, grace and manoeuvrability and provide a particularly good cardio-vascular workout.

In-line skates were first invented in the 1700s when a Dutchman tried to simulate ice-skating in summer by nailing wooden spools to strips of wood attached to his shoes, but they were too clumsy to be a real hit. Then in 1980 two Minnesota ice-hockey playing brothers resurrected the idea as a form of off-season training. They modified the boots and used polyurethane for the wheels. Soon in-line skating had moved from training tool through a street cred phase to become one of the most popular forms of exercise in America. In fact, it is the fastest-growing outdoor sport ever. Nine million Americans now own a pair of the new-style skates, and \$160 million worth of equipment was sold last year.

Switch to blades and roll away



Speed freaks: Vince Rogers and Alice Thomson take an eight-wheel ride through the park

So far the British have been less enthusiastic about embracing the sport, but already a few aficionados of American culture, speed freaks and trend-setting vicars have all been blading up.

In-line skates can now be bought at many large sports stores, but Blade Runner in Portobello, west London, is the first speciality shop. "It's not just a kids' fad like skateboarding or mountain bikes," says Dolce Wightman, a glamorous former model who runs the shop. "Most of my customers are over 25. They are

SPORTING LIFE

attracted to the sport as an alternative to jogging or swimming."

As someone who neither swims nor jogs and who is inclined to swear at roller-skaters speeding lethally down streets rather than gasp at them in admiration, I was not sure that this sport was for me. But Ms Wightman soon had me kitted out with knee and shoulder

pads, wrist-guards and some snazzy lime green and black blades before gently pushing me off in the direction of her friend Vince Roper, who was going to teach me the art - or was it the science - of in-lining. As it was pouring with rain, we decided to give Hyde Park a miss, and I had my first lesson away from public scrutiny in a deserted local sports centre.

The best thing about roller-blading is that it is so simple to learn. I never mastered the skateboard. But the basic in-line glide is quite easy. Skates are not hard to balance on, you just

STEPHEN MARKESON

knows, by next year I
even try the latest in-line
roller bungee-jumping,
you blade off the edge of a
at high speed with a
cord attached to your
I might settle for beating
in Magge, a barman
Sisley, Surrey, who has
an in-line speed record
John-o-Groat's to Land's
nine days, five hours and

Bye bye buying, hello renting

TWO years ago, when mortgage interest rates stood at 15.4 per cent, the fashionable thing to do was rent. The idea was to sell your house, release the capital and invest it, and rent somewhere glamorous for a good deal less than you had been paying on the mortgage. But with the cut in interest rates two weeks ago to 9 per cent and the subsequent move by some building societies to drop their mortgage rates to below 10 per cent, renting has become less appealing on purely financial grounds. Now it is a combination of other factors that is keeping the rental market busy.

"With over 300,000 mortgage holders six months and more in arrears, there is a sense that maybe young people should not rush into ownership," says John Birch of the Association of Residential and Letting Agents (Arla). "Rentals are also appearing as a viable alternative for people who want more flexibility, and who do not want to be tied to a mortgage," he says.

There is also an increase in the number of people who are renting simply because they have sold one property and are waiting to re-enter the market, as house prices continue to fall. Up to now, they have been right to do so. The most recent figures from the Halifax Building Society show that while house prices have started to stabilise in the past two months, they are still down 5 per cent on the figures for the same months last year.

"There are more promising signs for the housing market than there have been for some time," says Gary Marsh, of the Halifax. "If there are more interest rate cuts and confidence picks up, the picture could change dramatically."

Zia Taylor, of letting agents Taylor Gibbs in Highgate, north London, says there is an active market in properties costing between £150 and £1,000 a week, particularly short lets.

In and around London, it is still possible to find bargains in areas where rapid development took

Despite lower interest rates, it will be some time before confidence returns to the house-buying market. Is renting an option?



Rent £300 a week: two beds on the river in Bermondsey

place in the 1980s. In Docklands, builders appear more willing to lower their prices than get nothing at all. The agents Carlton Smith & Partners is letting a two-bedroom flat in Bermondsey at £300 a week: the weekly rental on a well-furnished, two-bedroom flat with a river view on the Isle of Dogs is about £200.

Outside London, Robert Jordan of Robert Jordan and Associates in Wiltshire, Cheshire says: "Buying a house is no longer perceived as the way to get rich quick. People are buying somewhere to live in, not to make money from."

If he and his colleagues are right that the increased interest in renting is the start of a long-term trend, the change is likely to be gradual. But a striking fact among many people who are renting a house is that they still see renting as a short-term option only. Despite all the publicity that has accompanied the hearth of repossessions and the capriciousness of up-and-down interest rates, the aim of most people is still to buy their home.

KAY MARLES

THE idea that the only respectable way to occupy a house is to own it is a comparatively recent, middle-class phenomenon. Until well after the second world war, renting was considered an acceptable option.

Charing "the Age of Property" in Howard's End in 1910, when permanency was not to be confused with ownership. E.M. Forster observed: "The feudal ownership of land did bring dignity, whereas the modern ownership of movables is reducing us again to a nomadic order." Forster's childhood home was rented initially for three years; the family stayed for ten. Since then the size of the rented sector has plummeted. By the time much-needed housing became available after the war, Labour legislation had begun to bite, restricting letting potential.

But both renting and letting acquired their definitive social stigma only in the 1960s with the combination of inferior properties and bad landlords, such as Rachman.

It has taken the Rent Act of 1977 and the Housing Acts of 1980 and 1988 (the latter introducing assured short-hold tenancies) to breathe a flicker of life into a moribund market.

"In the depression of the 1930s property became cheap to buy, and in a way the situation has gone full circle," says Neville Lee, chairman of Arla. "People are beginning to realise they can buy property for letting and their potential tenants are eager to avoid the perils of home ownership. The government is looking seriously at announcing initiatives to encourage investment in rental property."

If the way is now open in general for tenancy without tears, property at the top end of the market, the super-luxes, has long enjoyed a charmed life. Prestige London property is sought after by corporate and foreign clients. But requirements can be exacting for a property worthy of the £5,000 to £6,000 a week which some tenants are prepared to pay.

Vicky Palau, of the agents Savills, reports: "We had a chairman of an investment bank who wished to bring his wife and five children to Britain for a year and was looking to spend around £5,000 a week for a prestige property in north



Rent £6,000 a month: Kirtling Towers, near Newmarket, Suffolk; the gatehouse of a moated castle burnt down in the 18th century

London. He could find nothing that was both big enough and up to the standard he required."

The most super of Savills' super-luxes, in Holland Villas Road, W11, has seven bedrooms, two swimming pools and a sauna: "Very much a family home," Mrs Palau says. Now on the market at £3,000 a week, it has been available for the summer months for £4,000, including two au pairs.

"The problem is that whereas the selling price goes up the bigger and grander a house is, rental prices do not necessarily follow them," says Robert Orr-Ewing, of Knight, Frank and Rutley. Its super-luxes range from a house with six bedrooms and five bathrooms in Victoria Road, W8, at £4,000 a week, to a six-bedroom house in Kensington Square, at £3,000 a week unfurnished.

"People are prepared to pay £2,000 a week for a very nice house but it's a real struggle to get them to go over that figure," he says. "You are, therefore, almost always looking at individuals from overseas."

Country super-luxes hold little

RENTING v BUYING AROUND THE COUNTRY

£285: monthly repayment on a £40,000 mortgage, or monthly rental on a studio flat with garden and car parking space in Warrington, Cheshire.

£375: monthly repayment on a £47,000 mortgage, or monthly rental on a two-bedroom flat or modern terrace house in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

£450: monthly repayment on a £60,000 mortgage, or monthly rental on a "top-end" four-bedroom house in Winchester, Hampshire, or Cambridge.

£900: monthly repayment on a £110,000 mortgage, or monthly rental on a bungalow with a croquet lawn and a flat in a village near Winchester.

£1,300: monthly repayment on a £155,000 mortgage, or monthly rental on a three-bedroom Georgian cottage in Highgate village, north London.

£2,925: monthly repayment on a £345,000 mortgage, or monthly rental on an interior-designed five-bedroom town house, built three years ago in a sought after part of north London, with two roof terraces and a gallery area.

Mortgage figures supplied by the Abbey National. Rental figures from the Association of Residential and Letting Agents Taylor Gibbs, Highgate and GA Property Services.

appeal for overseas visitors. Pereds of London tends to let its country houses on short leases. "Most of our tenants are European or American, owning or renting in London, who want somewhere within one and half hours commuting for the weekend," Victoria Matthews, of Pereds, says.

Paul Gregory, of Hamptons, says: "The values tend to be higher

in the country and the rental return is not that brilliant: they are not going to fetch London prices." This is particularly true of property in Scotland. "The maximum one can achieve is about £1,000 a month unfurnished," says Robert Balfour, of Bidwells' Perth branch.

The scene of country super-luxes is Kirtling Towers, five miles from Newmarket, Suffolk. Owned by

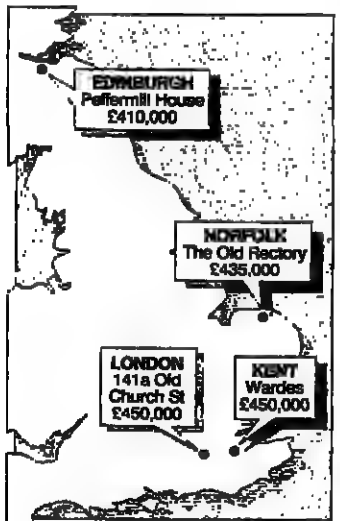
Lord and Lady Fairhaven, it is to let through Bidwells' Cambridge branch. With twin Elizabethan towers, once the gatehouse to a moated castle which burnt down in the 18th century, and extended in Victorian times, the house has been comprehensively refurbished. It has nine bedrooms, six bathrooms, four/five reception rooms, and an octagonal library in one of the towers. The black and white marble floor came from the original castle. King Harold had a deer park here, and Elizabeth I was detained in the castle at her sister's pleasure.

Three and a half acres surround the Towers, including a croquet lawn and a moated area with fountains. A further 15 acres are being restored to pre-1770 authenticity by the Fairhavens. Staff cottages in Kirtling village are available, and there are facilities for helicopter landing in a nearby paddock. The lease is for one year, renewable, at a rent of £6,000 a month. No pets.

ELUNED PRICE

What £450,000 will buy

From a medieval mansion to a studio house in Chelsea, Caroline Morse has some suggestions



Edinburgh: restored Peffermill House, "Edinburgh's other castle", dates from the 17th century. The house has eight bedrooms, a great hall and library, and 3½ acres of woodland gardens. About £410,000. Contact Knight Frank & Rutley (031-225 7105).



Norfolk: The Old Rectory, in Baconthorpe, is an 18th-century house with stabling and barn, five miles from the coast. It has ten bedrooms, four large reception rooms, playroom, conservatory and Victorian thatched summer-house. Organic gardens. About £435,000. Contact Bidwells (0603 763939).



Kent: Wardes, at Otham, is a Grade I listed medieval hall house in need of restoration, with four acres. It has oak studded and panelled doors, linenfold panelling, eight bedrooms and seven reception rooms, including a 14th-century great hall. About £450,000. Contact Knight Frank & Rutley (0892 515035).

Chelsea: two-bedroom studio house built between 1881 and 1886 by the sculptor Thomas Nelson Maclean, and later occupied by Katherine Mansfield. Split-level drawing room, kitchen/dining area, large terrace and a studio overlooking the garden. About £450,000. 141A Old Church Street, SW3. Contact John D. Wood & Co (071-352 1494).

Decay in a magical setting

Asley Castle awaits a latter-day Lord Curzon. The task is not so formidable as Bodiam or Tattershall — its proportions are smaller — but the building is in a very advanced state of decay.

Yet the setting is as magical as it is unexpected. Here, a few miles from the sprawl of Nuneaton and Coventry, is a delightful and largely unspoiled village in rural surroundings, dominated by a stately parish church.

Approaching from Nuneaton, there is a glimpse through the hedge of a lake beside the road,

Heap of the Week: Asley Castle, Warwickshire



Asley Castle: historic interest and not too large to be a house

with the castle just visible on rising parkland beyond. As you enter the park by a gate in the village there is a delightful 18th-century gothic barn begging for repair as a cottage. The castle is barely 100 yards away and the first glimpse proves to be the worst, for almost the whole west wall has collapsed. Asley is encircled by an unusually deep-set moat, partly filled

with water, and it can be approached only across a bridge. The gates are firmly barred but through them the imposing entrance is visible, built of a warm red local sandstone with a row of five handsome tracered windows. A licence to crenellate Asley and enclose it with a dyke and wall was granted in 1266. Elizabeth Woodville lived here before her marriage

to Edward IV. It was later the home of Sir Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, and his daughter, Lady Jane Grey. Here is a castle of the highest historic interest, which is not too large to be a house again. Asley has been part of the neighbouring estate of Arbury since the late 17th century. After occupation by the army during the second world war, it served as a hospital from 1947 until April 1978, when it caught fire on the last day of the lease. Severely damaged by smoke and flames, it was subsequently vandalised.

Estimates for refurbishment run well into six figures, largely because of the extensive masonry repairs needed. The castle is listed Grade II* and grant aid should be available from English Heritage.

MARCUS BINNEY

For further information call R.W. Thompson at Arbury Estates (0676 40529).

Taking cover



Buyer's France INSURANCE

If you are buying a home in France you would need to take out a comprehensive insurance policy — or *police multirisques habitation* — covering fire risk, flood, explosion, storm damage and natural disasters (a natural disaster, such as the recent flooding in the Vaucluse, must be declared such by the French government, otherwise the insurers will not pay out).

It should also cover the contents against the same sort of risks plus theft, accidental damage and third party liability (compulsory in France), and damage linked to the house (a tile falling from the roof, or a fire spreading to a neighbouring house, for example).

French policies relate to the size of the property (either according to the number of rooms or the habitable area in square metres), rather than its value, as in Britain. If yours is a holiday home which lies empty for long periods, you can expect to pay higher premiums. You will also have to complete a complex proposal form (in French) that will ask all sorts of questions about how long the property will be left unoccupied.

It is important to ascertain how far you are covered for theft in your all-risks policy and to check any specific conditions about protection (you are expected to have at least two locks on all doors and to leave the shutters closed when you are away). To make a claim you need to inform your insurers in writing within three to five days of the incident (24 hours in the case of theft). If you only discover the burglary or burst pipe two months later, the insurance company probably will not pay up. In the event of a claim you can employ an "assur-

ances expert" (ask for a recommendation from your local insurance agent) to negotiate with the insurance company on your behalf. Should you wish to cancel your policy you must give proper notice (some companies require three months' notice by registered letter). Otherwise your policy will remain in force and you will be liable for the premiums. Under French law, on the sale of a property the seller's policy remains in force for the benefit of the buyer.

Alternatively a British insurance company can effect cover for you, usually through Lloyd's. The advantage is that the policy is written in English, the premiums are payable in sterling, but most important of all any claims you make will be handled in England, instead of by long-distance correspondence with France.

Unlike the French system, British policies require you to insure specific sums in sterling. It is important to bear in mind that the cost of rebuilding that tumbledown farmhouse will probably be more than its value, and you must take currency fluctuations into account. Premiums are higher here than in France. A British insurance company, Holiday Homes Insurance Ltd (underwritten by London and Edinburgh through their European partners Assurances de

PICARDY

THE imposing *maison de maître* below, set in three acres of lawns, rose-beds and cow pastures a few miles from the pretty market town of Poix in Picardy, north of Paris, is for sale at £59,000. The property is in good condition, but needs central heating and some interior redecoration. It has three reception rooms and a kitchen, with open stone fireplace and parquet floors, four bedrooms and two bathrooms, plus a large attic.

The nearest ferry port, Dieppe, is about an hour's drive away. UK agent: Northern France Properties, 70 Brewer Street, London W1R 3PJ (071-287 4940).

C.T.



Room to move: this imposing house with acres of lawns is £59,000

Mellowing with the ages

Francesca
Greenoak sees how
our gardens have
grown in history

Maps, engravings and paintings of gardens have an unchangeable historical purity and distinctiveness. The landscapes themselves however have grown, blurred and changed down the years, reinventing themselves under the attentions of successive generations of gardeners, and in the light of ideas of later times.

Now a new exhibition, 'The English Arcadia', presents fascinating documents covering nearly four centuries of garden history in National Trust properties — and provides the perfect excuse to visit the subjects themselves and compare past and present.

In some cases, the increments of centuries have improved the texture and richness. Consider the vibrancy of Powis Castle (near Welshpool) under the talented care of its present head gardener, Jimmy Powis, made by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck in 1742, looks chilly and bare compared with the massive, dense yews and rich planting schemes of the present-day garden. The structure is, however, recognisable; it is still a great baroque garden, but now overlaid with the accretions and deletions of two and a half centuries.

The restored garden at Westbury Court in Gloucestershire, with its pretty, stilted summerhouse looking over the long fruit wall and ornamental canal, is the best surviving Anglo-Dutch garden in England. Created at the end of the 17th century, the original grandeur of its fine main house (now gone) and larger grounds are delineated in a contemporary engraving. The revived fragment with its beautiful trained fruit and compartmentalised, flower-filled parterres recaptures the emphasis on horticulture so characteristic of Dutch style.

The main difference is that the work is done now by the knowledgeable and skilled head gardener and one assistant, backed by clipping and mowing machinery, rather than by a small army of garden staff. Westbury has become simultaneously an exercise in historical reconstruction and a model for the newly fashionable, low-maintenance formality.



Et in arcadia: looking chilly and bare in the 1742 view, Powis Castle today enjoys the fruits of rich planting schemes and lush growth

Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire is a 19th-century garden where notable plants were matched by a Victorian exuberance expressive of the curiosity, scholarship and pride of Imperial Britain. Plants such as Japanese maples, peonies and hostas were arriving from the Far East, and interior gardens at Biddulph incorporating pagodas and even the great wall of China were built to receive them. A plan of the garden shows a progression of colonial landscapes. Walking through it broadens your understanding of Victorian: energy, thoroughness and attitudes to the world. Jokingly backed on to a cottage frontage is an *Alida*-like Egyptian scene; there is an immense rockery, a remarkable collection of pines, and a devastatingly dramatic dahlia terrace with a yew backdrop and tiered display beds.

The Arcadia exhibition includes elaborate formal designs from

about 1720 for a French parterre and finely patterned topiary at Cliveden in Berkshire. In 1850, the house was rebuilt and a parterre of an altogether more conspicuous kind developed by the gardener, John Fleming, who set a long-standing national fashion for spectacular biannual displays of bedding plants. There is still a parterre at Cliveden, but the design is modified for 20th-century taste and easier management.

Cliveden also has a turn-of-the-century topiary garden, wall shrubs and herbaceous borders, an inviting water garden, and a more recent garden planned with shrub roses, designed by Geoffrey Jellicoe in 1959. The developments of different periods all took place within the basic structure of the early garden and the surrounding woodland with its dramatic glimpses of the River Thames. Now

as then, formal and semi-natural landscape forms, particularly beautiful on a misty autumn day, are juxtaposed.

The great landscape garden at Stowe, arguably the epitome of the English arcadia, is also at its best in autumn and winter. Stowe has always been a place of change. In its early days garden buildings were moved and amended as if they were theatre sets; natural growth and restoration also played their part. The enormous fund of documentation cannot be precisely reapplied, but it is continually consulted during the present restoration, as scrub is cut back to restore the original sense of structure, and vistas through the magnificent woodland and over the lakes are reopened, so that the interaction between different sections of the garden can again be appreciated. The garden temples, buildings and statuary, grandiose and witty in their own day, still command

admiration and amusement, combined with sheer pleasure at the inventiveness of this landscape.

The restoration and care of landscapes is not simple even when there is ample documentation: for what can be considered the correct point of reference for a garden which has developed over centuries? The answer seems to be to treat each place intuitively in the light of extant information, and to interpret the landscape in the spirit of the dominating conception. Gardens, like houses, can be redeveloped in accord with the intention of the original.

'An English Arcadia' is at 38 Bury Street, London SW1 until Oct 15; then York City Art Gallery (Nov 21-Jan 3 1993) and City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (Jan 16-Feb 28). All the gardens mentioned above are open to the public until the end of October, and some throughout the winter. For opening times telephone the National Trust (071-222 9251) or consult the NT handbook.

Chart the course of a valuable hobby

East and west, whatever their references, antique maps have global appeal

Maps must be one of the few fields of antiques which offer such diversity of subject and the opportunity to start collecting examples for less than £40. By comparison with well-established markets, such as period porcelain or silver, historic maps are undervalued.

For some 1,500 years Claudius Ptolemy's *Geographia*, whose first printed edition was made in 1477, influenced cartography. The range of mapping subjects produced since the 15th century is immense, with the majority of maps for sale removed from their bound volumes and offered as loose sheets.

One of the most popular themes for a map collection is a particular locality, perhaps a country, or even a country. While a map of the British Isles from the 17th century Ptolemy first edition to be printed north of the Alps can command £7,200, John

East and Japan is still comparatively a strong market. Maps of Italy have been much in demand over the past 15 months North America is also a popular subject, particularly those early maps which show California as an island, and can cost as much as £3,500.

One tip when purchasing antique maps is to buy them un-



Worldly: Philip Curris at The Map House

Arrowsmith's finely engraved England (48cmx36cm) from 1842 is only £60, according to the Jonathan Potter, the London dealer.

English county maps have a strong following. Look particularly for those by Johannes Blaeu and John Speed. Blaeu's mid-17th century fine engraving on to quality paper has ensured that a single example can cost £450. Depending upon its condition, colouring and edition, a Speed can cost up to £1,100. The most sought after Blaeu and Speed county maps are of Cornwall and the Home Counties.

The 57 maps and plans produced by Thomas Moule's *The English Counties Delineated*, dating from 1830 and appearing originally as a part-work, are much in demand. They are decorative and display good detail, and cost about £65-£70 for most counties, and £85 for Gloucestershire and Hampshire.

Maps of specific countries vary considerably in interest. The Far

East and Japan is still comparatively a strong market. Maps of Italy have been much in demand over the past 15 months North America is also a popular subject, particularly those early maps which show California as an island, and can cost as much as £3,500.

One tip when purchasing antique maps is to buy them un-

CONAL GREGORY

● To learn more, read both the Country Life Book of Antique Maps by Porter and Moule's Country Maps of Old England with a modern introduction by Barron (Studio Editions). Good map dealers: The Map House, 54 Beauchamp Place, London, SW3 1NY (071-589 4325); Ivan R. Deverall, Duval House, The Glen, Cambridge Way, Lickfield, Sussex TN22 2AB (0825 762474); Jonathan Potter, BADA, 125 New Bond Street, London, W1Y 9AF (071-491 3520); O'Shea Gallery, BADA, 89 Lower Sloane Street, London, SW1W 8DA (071-730 0081); Roderick Barron, 21 Bayham Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN11 3AD (0732 742558); The Peersfield Bookshop, BADA, 16a Chapel Street, Peterfield, Angus GU32 3DS (0730 263438). BADA signifies member of The British Antique Dealers' Association.

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An evening without chemistry

Benedict Nightingale admits to war weariness with Tony Harrison

THEATRE

Square Rounds
Olivier

Let's hand it to Tony Harrison: when it comes to taking theatrical risks, he has no rival. In his *Truckers of Oxyrhynchus*, he reconstructed a Greek satyr play and used it to protest against our cardboard cities. In his still-unperformed *The Common Chorus*, he transposed *Lysistrata* to Greenham Common. Deft rhymes, a social conscience, Hellenic scholarship — who else can bring all three to a single play?

Square Rounds is, if anything, more eccentric. True, it has no obvious Greek prototype; but Harrison's other trademarks are at their most emphatic. No other playwright would dare write a dramatic poem about the propensity of chemists to put their inventions to military as well as humane uses. Sadly, there were also times at the National when I wondered if any other playwright would want to do so. Even Harrison has trouble fulfilling a brief that one character sums up as "verifying the death of fertiliser".

The production, sponsored by KPMG Management Consulting and directed by Harrison himself, opens arrestingly enough. A phalanx of figures in top hats and frock coats — half-undertakers, half-magicians — march menacingly forward. Vaguely martial music blends with

coughing, as from men dying from mustard gas. Women brandishing flags appear, then munitions workers, and then nurses. They open their Red Cross boxes to reveal parts of a machine-gun, which they nimbly assemble. Then the play proper begins with some chauvinistic banter between the German scientist Fritz Haber and a war-damaged British lavatory attendant; and it is downhill most of the way afterwards.

The lavatory man soon disappears; but Haber is as near to a main character as Harrison's meandering narrative allows. The disappearance of horse manure with the arrival of the motor car apparently caused a crisis for Europe's crops. Hence the importance of Haber, who successively transformed nitrogen into nitrate fertiliser and fertiliser into TNT. In science the power to improve and to destroy are hard to disentangle; or so it seems.

Much the same point is often repeated during the evening. Did



Women of war: Maria Friedman and Sara Kestelman — are they cast as a backhanded tribute to women who invented weapons?

you know that the same chap invented the Maxim machine-gun and the oxygen inhaler? No, nor did I. Did you know that Haber went on to turn dye into a poison gas so effective that, had the Kaiser grabbed his chance, he might have broken through to Calais? Harrison throws out quite a few facts, some interesting and relevant enough, others far less so.

All are, however, poorly dramatised. There is no tension,

little momentum. Largely, the evening consists of Haber and those other frock-coated figures coming forward, talking about their achievements, and disingenuously arguing that the more devastating the weaponry, the shorter wars will be. There are a few of those clever rhymes for which Harrison is famous, but even he has trouble bringing verve to lines that concern trinitrofluorene or end with references to 2NH3.

Some are sung, by way of giving them a lift, disguising their dullness, or both. Others are accompanied by conjuring tricks. Scarves change colour to symbolise "the modern scientist's magic wand", flags sprout from wands in reference to British or German nationalism, and so on. But I still sometimes found myself fidgeting at the back of the theatrical classroom, a balky schoolkid unwilling to swallow the pill my teachers were strenuously sugar-coating.

All the scientists, indeed almost all the characters, are played by women. Sara Kestelman's sinuous Haber and Paola Dionisotti's war-weary Maxim prime among them. Why is not clear. Is it a backhanded tribute to those women who, the programme tells us, invented weapons of war and received scant credit for doing so? Or because the incongruity of the casting has an oddly sinister effect? As often during the play, my response must be to blink, shrug, and admit defeat.

Baffled by he and she

THEATRE

The Darling Family
Old Red Lion

All sorts of plays can lacerate a critic. The dialogue in this two-hander by Canadian Linda Griffiths lacerated a Toronto critic. "Lacerating dialogue," he or she says. "Self-lacerating monologues," she or he adds. "An extremely brave play," reports someone in Winnipeg.

The set (by Fay Saxty) announces the kind of play this will surely be. One end of an iron bed sticks out from the crumpled grey carpet like a spa from a wrecked ship; beyond it an empty bath sits like a boat on a wave; the umbilical cord of a telephone connects the bath to an opened stepladder. This ladder is the vital clue. A ladder means that a play will delve into the workings of a tormented, nay self-lacerating, mind.

The barefooted woman, identified in the programme as She, begins with her dream of being raped and made pregnant by her big father. She is 12 years old at the time. Is She remembering fact or fantasy? I don't know. In the next scene She discovers She has been made pregnant, though not raped, by He. Does She want to give birth to the child? Possibly.

For comfort She touches a crystal, being a New Age person. She also throws the *I Ching*, which delivers a message She understands but not He, because He is into Heavy Metal and doesn't believe in Magic. However, He did once identify with Peter Pan, and so did She. I am sorry to say that the title refers to this, so presumably neither of them wants to grow up, though unlike Peter they aren't having fun meantime.

The rest of the play invites us to wonder what this trying woman will decide to do. The author has already loaded her with self-dramatising expressions, and Janine Wunsche's direction has encouraged Gina Landor to pose, placing fingers to her mouth, stealing silently into the bath, creeping cat-like over the bed. A real dilemma is thus made fearfully artificial. Kieron Jecchin's role is to be vacillating but concerned, and he does this likely enough despite being given no lines to explain how the ordeal increases his love for her. Since love gets its first mention only at the final embrace the play may be posing as a fairytale for grown-ups. At least nobody climbs the ladder and flies away to lacerate the pirates.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ROCK: David Sinclair reviews Mark Almond at the Albert Hall, plus new albums from Peter Dinklage and the Jayhawks

Perils of putting on the glitz

After three hours and at least eight costume changes, Marc Almond was still going strong. "I hope you're happy now you've all missed your last trains home," he quipped blithely, a joke which seemed to win less than universal appreciation.

The billing had promised "Twelve Years Of Tears", a concert comprising highlights from the length of Almond's career. Somewhere in the audience was his former colleague David Ball, the other half of the duo Soft Cell, with whom Almond first made his name in the early Eighties.

On stage there were over-exposed dancers, an under-employed percussionist, backing singers and a few other musicians. And on hand to supply a suitably epic touch during the second half were the massed ranks of the Tenement Symphony Orchestra, its conductor clad in ear-defenders as he guided the strings in their unequal struggle against



Almond: recondit vision

the remorseless, HI-NRG thump of the synth and drum machine arrangements.

It should have been a bold and colourful celebration of a performer who has clung to his own recondit vision and survived in the face of chang-

ing fashions. Almond has, among other things, become the modern torchbearer for European songwriters like Brecht, Weill and Brel. With his mannered vocal style and passionately arch personality, he has established himself as the master of the three-minute pop melodrama. But stretched out to this length the fault lines in his performance were exposed.

For one thing, despite his exquisitely precise enunciation and the baroque flourishes in his phrasing, he often betrayed a worrying inability to pitch the song in the same key as his accompanists. At his best, during a voice and piano recital including "Stories of Johnny", "Black Lullabye" and Peter Hamill's "Just Good Friends", he injected a fraught passion into lyrics exploring the dark side of the emotional psyche. But too often the glitz between ambition and ability was revealed as he wandered into realms of bathos and the

empty gesture, most notably on an overwrought version of Brel's "If You Go Away". Dressed at some point in everything from a formal black suit and white ruffled shirt to an aluminium foil jumpsuit, Almond strutted and struck poses like a cross between a catwalk model and a showroom dummy, the blue tattoo on his neck looking from the distance like an angry lovebite.

One costume change was effected on stage, pantomime style, behind a screen, and the show generally trod an unreliable line between energetic glitz and plain old sleaze. Compared to recent spectacles by the new breed of pop showmen, Erasure and even the Pet Shop Boys, it was tacky stuff.

"Tainted Love" and "Say Hello Wave Goodbye" were saved for the end of the marathon, by which time sandwiches and coffee would have been more welcome.

When he is not acting as the liberal conscience of rock, or discovering and nurturing musicians from every corner of the globe, or writing soundtracks for other people's movies, Peter Gabriel occasionally makes an album of his own. It last happened in 1986, when *So* deservedly became a massive worldwide success.

If Gabriel wants to take a long time making his records, that is his affair. But he warned: first impressions of his new album, *US* (Real World PGCD 7), suggest that an unusually long time may also need to be spent listening to it, before it eventually surrenders its charms.

The majority of the songs are long and slow, their exotic instrumental textures and gentle rhythmic undulations shimmering like tarmac in a heat haze. Gabriel's voice, assisted by Sinéad O'Connor on some tracks, is now a wonderfully weathered and cracked instrument, but the dreary lyrics are clearly the product of too much regression therapy: "I need to be needed when my self-esteem is

Slow but not sure



Gabriel: too sombre?

sinking", he confides in one. The overall mood of *US* is sombre and overcast, at times wearily so. In writing, performing and co-producing (with Daniel Lanois) these ten new numbers, Gabriel seems to have dug so far into his soul

that he has shut out the daylight.

There has been a lot of talk lately about the new New Country rockers — not people like Garth Brooks and Billy Ray Cyrus, who are really pop singers in cowboy hats, but younger, gung-ho groups like the Rockingbirds whose manner is a lot more unruly and whose stage banner boasts a picture of the late country-rock pioneer Gram Parsons.

By far the best exponents of this resurrected genre are the Jayhawks from Minneapolis, whose rough and ready third album *Hollywood Town Hall* (Def American 512 986-2) is a delight. Produced by George Drakoulis — the man who signed and co-produced the Black Crowes — the Jayhawks combine an appreciation of the best country-rock traditions (Neil Young, Bob Dylan et al), with a trenchant blast of youthful passion. Vocalist Mark Olson has a biting, authentic rasp while guitarist Gary Louris plays with tremendous, controlled aggression: a style reminiscent, at times, of Joe Ely's former guitarist David Grissom.

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Everyone Needs Opera

Songs, but not for voices

CONCERTS

Dominic Muldowney's new Oboe Concerto is instantly likeable. That is not to imply superficiality, though this does not set out to be a work of searching questions. As such it made a happy companion for a lacerating performance of Mahler's Fifth Symphony, whipped out of the London Symphony Orchestra by Michael Tilson Thomas (Barbican, Wednesday).

Muldowney's work was an LSO commission for principal oboist Roy Carter, though early in its genesis the composer had apparently "heard" it as much for a soprano as for a wind instrument. Its subtitle, "song-cycle for oboe and orchestra", refers to that.

The oboe barely stops singing, and Roy Carter's was a performance of stamina as much as of intellectual and imaginative virtuosity. The four "songs" are breathed in and out of life by oboe recitatives, sinuously oriental in both inflection and in the spare flicking of percussion.

This finds a counterpart in the characteristic Muldowney patterning of fragmented rhythmic shapes, as the orchestra's soloists accompany the oboe.

The songs move from an elusive dance which could have been (and perhaps, one day, will be) written for Ariel himself, to a busky summer song, a lilting waltz and a final rhythmically complex romp ending in a sudden fade-out. This was the sort of piece one wanted to hear again immediately: to pin down its structure, to enjoy to the full its deft orchestration.

Mahler's maturing orchestrator clearly gripped the imagination of Tilson Thomas that evening, as he and the LSO gloried in the orchestra as virtuoso instrument. But what made this performance far more than an indulgent exercise in sonorities was Tilson Thomas's sense of drama and direction. Each movement was built in a long

continuum of energy, binding its contrasts together.

The evening before, the English Chamber Orchestra under Sir Colin Davis gave a "nearby-new" premiere: the first performance of an arrangement for string orchestra by David Matthews and Sir Colin himself of Beethoven's String Quartet, Op. 127. Nothing in the original texture was changed, except that a double bass doubling had been added here and there.

So much for the how; the why was less clear. The ECO made as strong a case for the exercise as was possible, but paradoxically the scale of the music is reduced when its parts are materially expanded. How the opening chords shrink when they have found the resonance they so powerfully sought. And how the harmonic and rhythmic tension of the second and last movements falls in proportion to its density. Beethoven knew what he was about after all.

HILARY FINCH

London's yearning

ment climax, a moment skilfully prepared by Davis, evolving something passionate and personal out of the communal experience of folksong. In the finale, too, the opening outburst of despair tugged at the heart-strings, just as the dying fall of the closing chord said its eloquent farewell to a whole culture of imperial allegiances.

If much of the rest was more mundane, that is in the nature of the work itself. But Davis drew from his players some sharply defined rhythms in the

various folksong, march and ragtime passages. They also proved sympathetic accompanists to Joshua Bell in a performance of Prokofiev's First Violin Concerto that emphasised not the work's spiky virtuosity, but its plangent lyricism.

Alexander Goehr's 1963 *Little Symphony* begins with a chorale-like passage that could have come from *Parsifal*: its rarefied, mystic harmonies tinged with a hint of decadence. That spirit hovers in the air when the chorale returns at the end. In between, Goehr ranges across more characteristic post-Schoenbergian territory in a tightly constructed set of variations, a quasi-Classical scherzo and a spacious finale.

BARRY MILLINGTON

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The cult of Callas

"Callas remains the most influential opera singer of the post-war period, perhaps of the entire century. Of the world's most famous sopranos today — Jessye Norman, Kiri Te Kanawa, Kathleen Battle — not one of them can hold a candle to the individual interpretive genius of Callas."

Hugh Canning on Maria Callas — in *The Culture*, The Sunday Times tomorrow

How do you get to meet whodunnit?

Find out on Monday.
THE SUNDAY TIMES

BBC1

- 7.25 News and weather (7266241)
 7.30 Quick Draw McGraw (4568357) 7.35 Spider Musical
 animation (4567628) 7.40 Animal World with Derek
 Griffiths (4568593) 7.50 Little Britain (4568680) 8.15
 Chucklevision. The brothers take the law into their own
 hands (4568661) 8.30 Bucky O'Hare. Animated adventures
 deep in space (9339067)
 9.00 Going Live! Philip Schofield, Sarah Greene and Kristian Schmid
 are joined by Terry Wogan, Richard Huggitt and Terry Jones (45685406)
 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up includes
 (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football: Bob Wilson and Gary
 Lineker review the action from the Premier League; 1.00 News;
 1.05 Triathlon: Olympic swimming medalist Nick Gillingham is
 among the competitors in the Bath International Triathlon; 1.55,
 2.30 and 3.05 Racing from Chesham: The 2.00, 2.35 and 3.10
 races; 2.10 and 4.00 Boxing from Telford: Richie Woodhall v John
 Ashton 2.45 and 3.20 Hockey: Typhoo Tea Cup Women's
 International between England and Spain in Birmingham 3.50
 Football half-times 4.40 Final Score (12631319)
 5.05 News and weather (5821715) 5.15 Regional news and weather
 (8836512)
 5.20 Dad's Army. Jimmy Perry and David Croft's vintage comedy series
 about a bumbling Home Guard platoon. This week the bravery of
 Private Godfrey is called into question. (CeeFax) (5645375)
 5.50 Big Break. Jim Davidson and John Virts from the notorious
 snooker quiz, helped by Ray Reardon, Dene O'Kane and Mike
 Hallett. (CeeFax) (269864)
 6.20 Bobby Davro — Public Enemy No. 1. More embarrassing
 moments as Bobby Davro is joined by Little and Large, John
 McCrinnick and Michelle. (CeeFax) (201932)
 7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game. Family couples prepare to
 make fools of themselves as they compete for the chance to win
 the prizes on the conveyor belt. With Rosemarie Ford. (CeeFax) (5)
 8.00 Casualty. Grimy medical drama series set in the casualty
 department of an overstretched hospital. Tragedy strikes a boy with
 a throat complaint when his father is killed in a car crash. The reason
 for his silence. (CeeFax) (5) (178086)
 8.50 News and sport with Michael Buerk. (CeeFax) Weather (761048)



Stranded: Michael Keaton and Christopher Lloyd (9.10pm)

- 9.10 Film: The Dream Team (1989) starring Michael Keaton and
 Christopher Lloyd. Clever comedy-drama about four mental
 patients who find themselves alone in New York when their minder
 goes missing. Directed by Howard Zieff (78804593)
 11.00 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of two
 of the top Premier League games and the goals from the others
 (584845)
 12.00 Film: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex
 (but Were Afraid to Ask) (1972). Uneven compendium of comic
 sketches, written and directed by Woody Allen. Most aspects of sex
 are covered, inspired by questions raised in the book by Dr David
 Reuben (1789162)
 1.25am Weather (3969555)

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BBC2

- 8.00 Open University
 9.05 Film: Humoresque (1946, b/w). A stirring melodrama starring
 Joan Crawford as an unhappy woman who conspires herself
 with alcohol and by poisoning her handsome musical prodigy.
 Directed by Jean Negulesco (44191795)
 11.05 Film: The Love Train (1935, b/w). Chemists at a research
 laboratory concoct a plan to ruin the career of their female boss.
 An early, and very dated, effort from the great Michael Powell
 (4532357) 12.05 Film: Outlines New Zealand (4532357)
 12.15 Film: Which Way to the Front? (1970). The feeble comedy starring
 and directed by Jerry Lewis (459951)
 1.50 Network East. Asian arts magazine (93898777)
 2.20 In Search of the Dead. Philip Tibenham narrates the first of three
 programmes which explore the work of scientists who are
 searching for evidence of life after death (213567)
 3.00 Knight and Day. American drama series (4567777)
 3.25 Animation Now: Harlem Wednesday (4574864)
 3.35 Film: Hawaii (1966) starring Julie Andrews and Richard Harris.
 Solid adaptation of James Michener's novel set in 19th-century
 Hawaii. Directed by George Roy Hill (7878086)
 6.10 Late Again. Highlights from the Late Show (4590796)
 6.55 News and sport with Andrew Hawley. Weather (803883)
 7.10 Rumours of Rain. On the occasion of Oxford's fiftieth anniversary,
 a documentary that goes behind the scenes of the work of the
 charity in India and the Philippines. (CeeFax) (5) (512845)
 8.10-2.20am War and Peace. Charles Wheeler introduces a season of
 documentary, drama and comedy on the theme of war and its
 impact on individuals (400390)
 8.20 Gaze of the Gorgon.
 CHOICE: A typically provocative film by the poet Tony Harrison
 reflects on the brutalities of the 20th century. Harrison takes the
 Gorgon of Greek legend who turned men into stone as a
 metaphor for the freezing of freedoms. He singles out his fellow-poet
 Heinrich Heine as the standard-bearer of liberty and Kaiser
 Wilhelm II of Germany as the agent of repression. Harrison links
 poet and emperor through a statue of Heine on Corfu which the
 Kaiser ordered to be removed. Harrison is strong on ideas and
 passion but shaky on the facts. Heine is a poet of the 19th
 century, the "ghettos, gulags and genocide" as Harrison puts it in
 his acerbic verse commentary, is surely simplistic. But if film is
 accepted on a symbolic level rather than as literal truth, it says
 much that is pertinent about the failings of modern man (5)
 (156864)



Battles of Britain: Cheryl Campbell stars as Vera (9.10pm)

- 9.10 Testament of Youth. Cheryl Campbell as Vera Britain in episode
 one of Elaine Morgan's fine dramatisation of Britain's
 autobiographical book, set mostly during the first world war. The
 five-part series was first shown on 1979 (742406)
 10.05 The Brain Drain. Jimmy Mulligan is joined by John Sessions, Clive
 Anderson and Brandi Brinkley in a comedy sketch (742406)
 10.35 Film: Oh! What a Lovely War (1969). Satirical view of the first
 world war, as seen by the performers in an end-of-the-pier show.
 An impressive, though toned-down adaptation of Joan
 Littlewood's angry stage work, directed by Richard Attenborough
 and featuring a star in every role (74134703)
 12.50am Film: Paths of Glory (1958, b/w).
 CHOICE: Modern budget and in running time, Paths of Glory is
 one of the cinema's great indictments of war, or to be more
 precise, the military mind. The director, Stanley Kubrick, was only
 31 but he displays an impressive sureness of purpose and style. It is
 1915 and a French regiment is ordered to attack an impenetrable
 German fortress. When the action predictably fails, three soldiers
 are made the scapegoats and court-martialled for cowardice. The
 real battle is not in the trenches but within the French command. It
 sets the cinematic idealism of (Kubrick's) Douglas Sirk against the
 cynical generals (Adolphe Menjou, George Macready) who give
 the orders but are determined to shift the blame. Paths of Glory is
 an incisive study of a corrupt power structure and the class system
 which helps to underpin it (2508487). Ends at 2.20

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (6338574)
 9.25 What's Up Doc? presented by Yvette Fielding, Pat Sharp and Andy
 Crane (5) (3261554)
 11.30 Movies. Movies. Movies. Featuring City of Joy, in which Patrick
 Swayze stars as a doctor in India. Carry On Columbus and Disney's
 Beauty and the Beast (1864)
 12.00 The ITV Chart Show featuring Huey Lewis and the News with
 "Stuck With You" (5) (44154)
 1.00 News with Edward Sturton. Weather (2365999) 1.05 LWT
 News (9240963) 1.10 The Smurfs. Animation
 1.30 Starting from Scratch. Comedy series about a small-town vet
 (490796)
 2.00 Matlock. A man is determined to find his wife, even though he has
 just been released from prison after serving seven years for
 manslaughter (58485)
 3.00 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams. Wild west adventure
 starring Dan Haggerty (5) (5680)
 4.00 WCW Wrestling from America (4685425)
 4.40 News with Edward Sturton. Weather (4574661) 5.00 LWT news
 (5848357) 5.05 Cartoon Time (5) (561688)
 5.15 Dinosaurs. Puppet fun with the prehistoric family (5) (82338)
 5.45 Catchphrase. Hi-tech quiz show. (Oracle) (381609)
 6.15 The Gladiators Are Coming! A preview of the new sports show
 (487609)



New face: Timothy Dalton takes on the role of 007 (6.30pm)

- 6.30 Film: The Living Daylights (1987). Timothy Dalton makes his
 debut as agent 007 in an above-average addition to the James
 Bond series. Our hero is ordered to help a KGB general defect to the
 west, but he finds himself up against a notorious drugs dealer.
 Directed by John Glen. (Oracle) (5) (5141777)
 6.50 Dame Edna's Neighbourhood Watch. The housewife and
 superstar intrudes into the home of another unsuspecting member
 of the public. (Oracle) (5) (559932)
 9.20 30 Years of James Bond
 CHOICE: A celebration of three decades of Bond films is heavy
 on anecdote but short on analysis and perhaps that is how it should be.
 Too much can be read into them for most people are simple-minded
 entertainments that offer a couple of hours of escapism. Perhaps the
 Bond adventures did reinforce Cold War prejudices, but it is doubtful if
 they incited audiences to bomb the Soviet Union. The programme
 assembles all four Bond actors — Sean Connery, Roger Moore, George Lazenby (remember him?) and
 Timothy Dalton — and the producer, Cubby Broccoli. It gives due
 prominence to the production designers, the special effects teams
 and the stuntmen. Many of the reminiscences are about the
 gadgetry, an appropriate reminder that the Bond cycle has always
 had more to do with technology than art. (Oracle) (640574)
 10.20 World Championship Boxing. Jim Rosenthal introduces live
 coverage of the WBC super middleweight bout from Osaka, near
 Kyoto. The Big E. Magraw and the producer, Cubby Broccoli. It gives due
 prominence to the production designers, the special effects teams
 and the stuntmen. Many of the reminiscences are about the
 gadgetry, an appropriate reminder that the Bond cycle has always
 had more to do with technology than art. (Oracle) (640574)
 11.00 News with Edward Sturton. Weather (867262)
 11.20 Hale and Pace. Gareth and Norman present their brand of comedy
 in the form of a cricket match with frogs and a song about puberty
 (5) (717116)
 11.50 Almost Grown. American series about the tumultuous marriage
 of a couple from New Jersey (855512)
 12.55am The Big E. Magraw and the producer, Cubby Broccoli. It gives due
 prominence to the production designers, the special effects teams
 and the stuntmen. Many of the reminiscences are about the
 gadgetry, an appropriate reminder that the Bond cycle has always
 had more to do with technology than art. (Oracle) (640574)
 1.55 La Carrera Panamericana. The story of the gruelling road race
 across Mexico for cars manufactured before 1955 (9316181)
 2.50 New Music. Pop magazine (9980623)
 3.50 Rhythm 'n' Raag. Asian music show featuring Benjamin
 Zephaniah, Nitin Sawhney, the Acrobats of SA and Geet
 (4450899)
 4.15 Out of Limits. Sports stars test their limits of endurance
 (9572592)
 4.30 The Hit Man and Her. Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan
 appear on the latest from the club scene (5) (44094)
 5.30 ITN Morning News (73029). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Heartthrob. Animated antics (6393319) 6.25 Eureka's Castle.
 Music and cartoons for the under-fives (3554488) 6.55 Crosswalk
 (7567777) 7.25 High 5. First in a 13-part series which takes a
 look at unusual sports (9) (8389048) 7.55 Trans World Sport.
 International sporting features (9332023) 9.00 News summary
 (1269406) 9.15 Racing: The Morning Line (4946799)
 10.00 Quizshow. Will Buckley introduces the sports quiz. Today, the
 News of the World takes on The Observer (5) (85308)
 10.30 Gazzetta Football Italia. Paul Gascoigne presents a look behind
 the scenes at his club Lazio and reports on the other football action
 from the Italian league (47406)
 11.30 American Football. Mick Luckhurst and Gary Imlach present
 highlights of last week's games (9406)
 12.00 Get Smart. Spy spoof starring Don Adams (11338)
 12.30 Songs and Memories. Personalities from India and Pakistan select
 favourite film clips. This week one-time model Shobha De talks to
 Zamine Sarfaraz (23661)
 1.00 Film: Jewel Robbery (1932, b/w). Minor romantic comedy
 starring William Powell as a debaucher thief who takes a daring raid
 on a Viennese jeweller's shop and falls for a beautiful baroness.
 Directed by William Dieterle (2627393)
 2.15 Channel 4 Racing from Longchamp and Newmarket. Live
 coverage of the 2.20, 2.50, 4.00 and 4.35 from Longchamp and
 the 2.30, 3.00, 3.40 (William Hill Cambridgebridge Handicap),
 4.15 and 4.45 from Newmarket (9322883)
 5.05 Brookside. Omnibus edition (5). (Teletext) (5) (777661)
 6.30 Right to Reply. Presenter Darius Howie and series producer Trevor
 Phillips from Devil's Advocate defend the programme against
 viewers' criticisms of the way it deals with black issues. (Teletext) (5)
 (54)
 7.00 The World This Week. In the last in the current series the
 programme looks at the global hotspots where famine relief is
 likely to be needed, plus a report on the attempts being made at
 reconciliation in El Salvador. With Sheema McDonald (8135)



Mud and guts: the desperate Dons prepare to lose (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Another Bloody Sunday
 CHOICE: The final film in the Barry Cockcroft retrospective is his
 1979 study of Doncaster rugby league club. He catches the Dons
 just as they are entering The Guinness Book of Records for the
 longest losing sequence. It is seven months since they were last
 victorious and morale is understandably drooping. The ground,
 Tattersfield, could not be more aptly named. General manager Tom
 Morton remains cheerfully sardonic. "A good result for us is to get
 13 players out on the field before the kick-off." Cockcroft's film
 follows Doncaster through two more defeats and on to a home
 game with Huddersfield, the team above them in the table. In squelching
 mud and fading light the Dons try to salvage their season: it is a
 brilliant film, beautifully observed, resisting the temptation to mock
 and setting the game in its wider social and geographical context.
 (Teletext) (7883)
 9.00 Court TV: America on Trial. Cynthia McFadden introduces more
 real life drama (4319)
 10.00 Let the Blood Run Free. Australian black comedy medical soap.
 (Teletext) (5) (12067)
 10.30 Film: La Vie est un long fleuve tranquille (1988). Lively French
 comedy in which a wealthy middle-class couple learn that 12 years
 ago a vengeful nurse exchanged their newly born son for the
 daughter of a poor and near-criminal family. Directed by Etienne
 Chaizez (75376654)
 12.15am Live Group: World Tour. Using music, a group of American
 maximum security prisoners try to keep young offenders on the
 straight and narrow (6272162)
 12.40 Australian Rules Football. The grand final from Melbourne
 Cricket Ground (9156617)
 1.40 Film: Saturday Night at the Palace (1987). A powerful South
 African drama, based on Paul Sabolewski's stage play, in which he
 plays an unemployed racist who torments the black manager of a
 burger bar. Directed by Robert Davies (630907). Ends at 3.15

SATellite

- SKY ONE
 Via the Astra and Maripoco satellites
 6.00am Danger Bay (54932) 6.30 Elephant
 Bay (55208) 7.00am Fun Factory (6022308)
 7.30am News (6022308) 8.00am News (6022308)
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- SKY MOVIES+
 Via the Astra and Maripoco satellites
 6.00am Gaily, Gaily (1989). Comedy about
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- SKY NEWS
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BBC1

- 7.15 Film: *The Night of the Party* (1934, b/w) starring Leslie Banks and Ian Hunter. A ruthless press baron is murdered. Directed by Michael Powell (260549).
- 8.15 Film: *Pardon Us* (1931, b/w). Laurel and Hardy meet a bunch of misfits when they are sent to prison. Directed by James Parrott (8495100). 9.10 News and weather (234455).
- 9.15 Start Your Own Religion. Colin Morris examines religion's claims that it fulfils basic human needs (2115810).
- 9.30 This is the Day. Norma Craddock talks to students of Atlantic College in the Vale of Glamorgan (268907).
- 10.00 See Hear! A report on the drama competition at the British Deaf Association Congress (74153).
- 10.30 Inside English. Continuing the series designed to assist in organising language skills (4864839). 10.45 *Logot How to Learn a Language* (1) (4852094).
- 11.00 *Careening Ahead*. A feature series exploring the world of training (3094).
- 11.30 *Winning*. The second in a six-part series on small businesses (47223).
- 12.00 Spain on a Plate. Maria José Sevilla continues her gastronomic journey around Spain (1). (Ceefta) (5) (57902).
- 12.30 Country File presented by John Craven (8215487). 12.55 Weather (5306658).
- 1.00 News (2234075). 1.05 On the Record presented by Jonathan Dimbleby. The guest is Kenneth Clarke MP (5483365).
- 2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (1). (Ceefta) (5) (57902).
- 3.00 *Eldorado* (1). (Ceefta) (5) (57902).
- 3.30 Film: *Doctor in the House* (1954). First and still the freshest of the St Swinith's saga, starring Dirk Bogarde. Directed by Ralph Thomas (7496636). 4.55 Cartoon (9855487).
- 5.05 25 Years of Radio 1. Film of Radio 1's party to celebrate its 25th birthday (5) (9556991).
- 5.45 The Comedy Show. Jeff Banks, Selma Scott and Caryl Franklin return with a new series of the fiction guide. (Ceefta) (5) (57902).
- 6.10 The Survival Guide to Food. Cheryl Baker looks at the problems that can arise when others cook. (Ceefta) (5) (735655).
- 6.20 News with Moira Stuart. Weather (838181).
- 6.35 Songs of Praise from Truro Cathedral. (Ceefta) (5) (818758).
- 7.15 *Keeping Up Appearances*. Patricia Routledge stars in Roy Clarke's one-joke comedy about a suburban snob. (Ceefta) (5) (721075).
- 7.45 The House of Eliott. Polished period drama starring Stella Gonet and Louise Lomard. (Ceefta) (5) (865346).
- 8.40 Birds of a Feather. Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson star as the wise-cracking sisters from Chigwell, whose parents is tested when their aunt comes to Cornwall. (Ceefta) (5) (955162).
- 9.10 News with Maryn Lewis. (Ceefta) Weather (992177).



Framed: Steven Waddington as an asphyxiated boxer (9.25pm)

- 9.25 Screen One: *Seconds Out*.
- CHOICE: Having given us one study of a brutal all-male world in *Civilies* Lynda La Plante here offers another as she turns her incisive pen to boxing. Steven Waddington, who played Edward II for Derek Jarman, stars as an asphyxiated champion who is framed by a crooked promoter (Colum Connolly) and forced to further his career in the dangerous underworld of unlicensed fights. Essentially it is the exploitation-of-a-hungry-fighter story, familiar from a dozen movies, but La Plante gives it satisfying complexity and her usual hard edge. An excellent supporting cast includes Tom Bell and Derek Newark. Indeed the writing and acting are strong enough not to need such flashy embellishment by the director Bruce Macdonald. An arresting visual style is one thing. Eccentric camera angles and gimmicky lighting effects are quite another. (Ceefta) (5) (2015704).
- 10.55 *Everyman: Lifeline*. A documentary about the remarkable relationship between a retired music teacher from Berkshire and a middle-aged window cleaner from California in solitary confinement on Florida's Death Row (1). (Ceefta) (249636).
- 11.35 *Black and White in Colour: Television, Memory, Race*. 1968-92. The second of two documentaries charting black and Asian contributions to British television (1) (207636).
- 12.25am Weather (4950292).

BBC2

- 7.20 *Take the Cat*. Feline fun (5358810). 7.45 Playdays (1) (4159568).
- 8.10 *Smugglers* (1) (7441384). 8.35 *Animal Album* featuring monkeys and apes (1) (1245075). 8.50 *On the Border* (1) (8510181). 8.55 *Stew* (1) (1245231). 9.15 *The Legend of Prince* (1) (1245075). 9.40 *The Legend of Prince* (1) (1245075). 9.40 *The Legend of Prince* (1) (1245075).
- 10.00 *Morning Worship* from the Poor Clare Monastery in Arkley, Hertfordshire (48094).
- 12.00 *The Human Factor*. Ted Harrison reports on Beechy Coldough, whose addiction to amphetamines, meths and aftercare brought him to the depths of degradation a decade ago. Today he runs a recovery centre in Kent where he counsels people suffering from a variety of addictions. (Oracle) (455681).
- 12.30 An Invitation to Remember. Actor Richard Todd looks back on his life and career (1) (8137655). 12.55 *LWT News* (53251636).
- 1.00 News with Anne Leuchars. Weather (4033467). 1.10 *Watson*. Brian Walden returns to question more political figures (7017636).
- 2.00 *Bullseye*. Darts and general knowledge quiz game (3433).
- 2.30 The London Match. Live coverage of the match between Brentford and Newcastle United from Griffin Park (5) (5918106).
- 5.05 *Baywatch*. Another take of the immensely popular vigilantes of Los Angeles County (1) (4680162).
- 6.00 *Animal Country*. Desmond Morris and Sarah Kennedy continue their travels through Norfolk and Suffolk (723).
- 6.30 News with Anne Leuchars. Weather (1234467). 6.35 *LWT News* (232758).
- 6.40 *Highway*. Harry Secombe travels to Ebbw Vale in South Wales to visit the National Garden Festival on its last day. (Oracle) (799051).
- 7.15 *You've Been Framed*. Jeremy Beadle introduces more amateur out-takes (1) (79471).
- 7.45 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: *The Speaker of Mandarin*. Reg Wexford is convinced that the key to Adela Knight's murder lies somewhere in China, but Mike Burden is not so sure. (Oracle) (52926).
- 8.45 *London's Burning*. Colin's probationary period is over and he is about to discover whether he will be accepted as a fire-fighter. (Oracle) (888094).
- 9.45 News with Anne Leuchars. Weather (592278).
- 10.05 *Splitting Image*. The latest lookalikes return with their inimitable impersonation of people in the news (225097).
- CHOICE: The relationship between the fashion industry and the press is a complex one which goes beyond the inducements supposedly offered to journalists in the shape of lavish hospitality and free clothes. The thesis of this programme is that designers need the press as much as the press needs designers, the one to sell their wares, the other to fill editorial columns and attract advertising. So there is an unrelenting collaboration, in which the designer's message becomes transmuted into the fashion editor's story? The film suggests that if you are looking for a critical appraisal of the new collections you are more likely to find it in newspapers than the glossy magazines which cannot afford to turn away lucrative advertising. Indeed, a spokesperson from Vogue admits as much when she says: "We are here to celebrate fashion, not to destroy it." (143297).
- 9.30 *Building Signs*. *Odile Deque*. The new-wave architect sings the praises of a council housing complex in the French city of Nîmes, designed by the architect Jean Nouvel and built in 1987 (879839).
- 9.40 *A Word in Your Ear*. Roy McGee invites his guests to become their favourite literary character. This week, John Bird is Napoleon, Sir Kenneth Harvey is Vita Saville-West and Kathy Burke is Mona Lisa (1) (134278).

Still swearing: unrepentant comic Billy Connolly (10.35pm)

- 10.35 The South Bank Show.
- CHOICE: Grieving, bearded but still subversive, Billy Connolly marks his 25 years in showbusiness with a friendly profile featuring his one-man show and an interview with Melvyn Bragg. Since the stage material is almost entirely autobiographical, the two elements go effortlessly together. One minute Connolly is telling Bragg about childhood beatings from a sadistic aunt. Then the same episode is related in comic form to a 3000-strong audience in Glasgow. Anecdote, rather than one-liners, is the stuff of Connolly's act and a hard early life continues to provide rich pickings. Apart from the beard, Connolly has given up drink and smoking. He has not managed to eschew the F-word, much in evidence in this film. He says swearing is a rhythmic thing and he feels his show would be more pretentious without it (987075).
- 11.35 *Cue the Music*. The Chieftains live at the Glasgow Music Festival (948471).
- 12.35am *Derrick*. German police drama (229389).
- 1.45 The ITV Chart Show (1) (5) (428853).
- 2.50 *Night Heat*. Canadian crime drama (2118633).
- 3.50 *Pick of the Week*. Paul Ciolek reviews highlights of regional television (3403124).
- 4.15 *Memories*. 1970-1981. Robert Powell narrates memorable moments from 1974 (1) (789476).
- 5.15 *Out of Limits* (1463853).
- 5.30 *ITN Morning News* (98501). Ends at 6.00.

ITV

- 6.00 *TV-am* (6222346).
- 9.25 *Disney Club*. Richard Orford, Andrea Boardman and Paul Hendy are joined by Betty Boop and the Frigidians (4069734).
- 10.45 *Link*. Sam Vasey looks at a new report that: Games disabled people are badly represented by television. (Oracle) (4847162).
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CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 *Trans World Sport* (1) (45758). 7.00 *Take 5* (1) (41181). 7.30 *Laurel and Hardy* Cartoon (4455839). 7.35 *Little Wizards*. First of a 13-part series of animated adventures. (4148452). 8.00 *Sandokan*. Cartoon pirates (33723). 8.30 *Wish Kid*. A boy's magic glove can fulfil his every wish (32034). 9.00 *Spacecats*. Animated feline fun (1232520). 9.25 *Laurel and Hardy* Cartoon (2365520). 9.30 *Dennis*. Animated adventures (1) (6681487).
- 9.45 *Flipper*. Classic adventures of the friendly dolphin (583742).
- 10.15 *If Wishes Were Horses*. Series about a group of mixed ability children learning to ride (1) (575723).
- 10.45 *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*. Adventures of an extraordinary submarine and her captain (350636).
- 11.45 *Little House on the Prairie*. Trains and tribulations of a close-knit Kansas plains family starring Michael Landon (5330013).
- 12.40 *Four-Matthews Sound*. Gerald Matthews brings an Oscar-winning cartoon directed by Bobe Cannon and written by Dr Seuss; and Cockaboo (58602075).
- 12.55 Film: *Bilbie Spirit* (1945, b/w). Rex Harrison and Constance Cummings star in a delightful screen adaptation of Noel Coward's comedy about a writer haunted by the spirit of his first wife. Margaret Rutherford goes scene-stealing as the medium, Madame Arsch. Directed by David Lean (4728678).
- 2.45 *Football Italia*. Napoli v Juventus (5258556).
- 5.45 *Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe*. Broun Scott live coverage of France's premier horse race (4577758).
- 5.15 *Answering Back*. Susannah Simons talks to David Sainsbury, chairman designate of Sainsbury's (1355471).
- 6.00 *Miraculous Megs*. Fantasy series for children. Jane and Ralph Cardo disguise to enable them to struggle with the earthlings (365).
- 6.30 *The Cosby Show*. American family comedy. (Teletext) (617).



Home and away: the American mobile home craze (7.00pm)

- 7.00 *Equinox*.
- CHOICE: Although *Equinox* is a science and technology strand tonight's film has little of either as it explores the passion in the United States for mobile homes. Admittedly there is a section on design, which demonstrates how much trailers and motorhomes have owed to techniques developed in the aircraft industry. But the main thrust is sociological and ideological, stressing how the house on wheels has echoed the American yearning to be free. Perhaps not too fancifully a comparison is drawn between the RV (recreational vehicle) brigade of the 20th century and the wagon trains which helped to open up the American west. For light relief the film has assembled a detachable group of mobile home eccentrics, including a taxidermist, an evangelist and the man who claims to be the owner of the world's biggest flag. (Teletext) (9007).
- 8.00 *Tights Camera Action!* Choreographer Les Anderson introduces director/choreographer Stefan Schneider's fresh look at poodles and Compagnie Astrakhan jump to it with *Waterproof* (5) (7839).
- 8.30 *American Football*. Mick Luckhurst and Gary Imatch introduce action between the Miami Dolphins and the Buffalo Bills (35925).
- 10.00 Film: *Tap* (1989) starring Gregory Hines and, in his last film, Sammy Davis Jr. An ex-con is torn between a life of crime and his talent as a dancer. Routine story, wonderful dancing. Directed by Nick Castle. (Teletext) (5) (1920).
- 12.00 Film: *Why Has Bodhi-Dharma Left for the East?* (1989). An old Zen master lives in a mountain monastery with his two disciples. The three characters represent humanity, struggle to resolve the dilemmas of existence. In Korean with English subtitles (60304124). Ends at 2.35am.

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VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
- As London except: 12.30 *Gardening Time* (838636). 12.30-1.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 1.00-1.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 1.30-2.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 2.00-2.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 2.30-3.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 3.00-3.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 3.30-4.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 4.00-4.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 4.30-5.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 5.00-5.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 5.30-6.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 6.00-6.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 6.30-7.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 7.00-7.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 7.30-8.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 8.00-8.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 8.30-9.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 9.00-9.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 9.30-10.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 10.00-10.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 10.30-11.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 11.00-11.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 11.30-12.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 12.00-12.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 12.30-1.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 1.00-1.30 *Anglia News* (871816). 1.30-2.00 *Anglia News* (871816). 2.00-2.30 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Hamming it up in Parma

Lynne Truss emerges, blinking, from the darkened rooms of an Italian palazzo to report on the PrixItalia proceedings



WE WERE standing in the Duomo at Parma, guests and delegates of the PrixItalia 1992, peering through pocket binoculars at the ceiling and feeling a bit sick. Possibly we were sated with Parma ham: possibly the whole thing was getting too much. Above us in the cupola, whirling and humming, was a famous, gorgeous and ludicrously overpopulated Correggio fresco, in which the Virgin Mary is assumed to a yellow heaven, rising from a multitude of pink faces and fat legs so dense and bizarre that the principal character is virtually obliterated, and the viewer starts to fight for breath in sympathy.

When Charles Dickens saw this fresco for so many guidebooks informed me, he was so excited by the thrash of unattributable lower limbs around its edge he wrote that "no operative surgeon in his wildest delirium" could possibly have imagined it (but then Dickens was always a bit kinky about legs). No such fancy assailed the members of our little PrixItalia group 150 years later. We just wanted to get the story straight: and it wasn't easy at this distance. Personally (I admit it), I was playing "Spot the Virgin" as though my sanity depended on it.

"I can't see the Virgin, I can't see the Virgin," I panicked.

"There she is," said a helpful compatriot (pointing generally in the direction of the roof).

"But where?"

"There, in the blue, with her arms out."

"Where?"

"There. Look. In a direct line with the bloke falling out of the sky. She's being assumed into heaven. She's rising up."

"Oh yes." (Sigh of relief.) "So she's going to be all right then?"

"That's the idea."

"And what's the point of all the other guys? And the sheep?"

"I don't know. Perhaps it's an allegory on Gore Vidal's diocesan. 'It is not enough to succeed, others must fail'."

A week of watching international television in the darkened rooms of a dilapidated palazzo was evidently beginning to take its toll. The poor, weary brain, whirling and humming with hours of fiction, documentary and music and arts programmes, was signalling, I think, that it required a result. Would somebody please spot the virgin soon? After each session,

TV REVIEW

non-jury-members would tip the wink to one another about the entries shown in different rooms, but notable programmes were slow to rise up from the throng (although strangely you could always spot the sheep). "What did you see just now?" "Oh, a witless Austrian detective story, about a policeman played as a jaunty black beret. How about you?" "A French film about Anton Webern." "Oh dear. Any good?" "All right. It had the benefit of being 26 minutes long instead of 87." "It deserves a prize, then."

"Indeed."

Second-guessing was what the competition seemed to be about. Obviously broadcasting organisations submit programmes they think will win a prize — which is not necessarily the same thing as their best or most representative work. This second-guessing may account for the strange weighting of the entries in all categories towards misery and relentlessly blighted lives, summed up best by a very serious Finnish documentary about a Russophobic Lithuanian who had hidden in a cellar for 27 years under a pile of potatoes. "Twenty-seven years under those potatoes," mused the interviewer. "Are you bitter towards Stalin or communism... or God?"

Meanwhile another sort of second-guessing operated within the PrixItalia observers, who turned up in quite modest numbers for Benediktas: *Refugee in his Own Cellar* but formed impressive audiences for every British entry — jamming the viewing rooms and gratefully laughing like drains at the jokes. On Saturday afternoon, LWT's *South Bank Show* on *Sgt Pepper* delighted everybody so well that afterwards all the observers (not the jury, of course) spilled out into the sunshine, had a drink, and headed off for the hotels, sparing no thought for the luckless so (Austria) whose programme had been scheduled next.

In the PrixItalia viewing rooms laughs were rare and precious — like, er, Parma ham usually is. Meanwhile Parma ham had become so commonplace that some of us actually began waving it away ("Prosciutto? Ha ha. No thanks"), and secretly wondered whether our diet was an experiment in aversion therapy.

I mention the *Sgt Pepper* programme because I imagine you would like to know the fate of the British entries. Well, in the music



Assuming the position: what category would the PrixItalia consider appropriate for Correggio's high-body-count ceiling art?

and arts section, the BBC's witty *Dostoevsky's Travels* (Paul Pawlikowski's *Bookmark*) was airily passed over for the prize on the grounds that it had been entered in the wrong section. It was a moot point, actually. The jury decided that the film was well made — and "ambiguous", whatever that means — but that it had little connection with art. This pronouncement caused a minor rumpus when Pawlikowski (a student-like individual, dressed in Hamlet black) revealed himself in the back rows of the press conference and rather penitently declared that since his film exposed just such a pompous attitude towards art, he was glad not to win. Whoops.

It was the sort of outburst that makes you stare at the carpet, but the problem is a real one. The PrixItalia, originating as a competition for radio only, fixed its categories as fiction, documentary and music; and is now faced in its television entries with the problem

that the high-culture music programmes which still best fit the expanded "music and arts" category make the delegates snore so resonantly in the viewing rooms that the ancient frescoes crumble and split (despite the heavy darts of grey Polyfilla holding them together). "Who selects these entries?" enquired the exasperated chairman of the judges, having just pronounced the majority of the programmes "insidiously mediocre." Is it the catering department? The fire brigades?

In the fiction section we came nowhere, which was odd. The BBC's *Grass Arena* and ITV's *Prime Suspect* were entered alongside Mike Leigh's *Life Is Sweet* (Channel 4). Big guns all, but none received a mention. Since only half of *Prime Suspect* was shown (for reasons of length), I did briefly consider setting up a little booth in the pleasant courtyard of the palazzo, where for a

small fee I would disclose whether Helen Mirren ever tracked down Madeline's car. But in the meantime, the jury awarded the PrixItalia to *The Controversy of Valladolid*, a French film reconstructing a 16th-century ecclesiastical debate on the issue of whether the American Indian had a human soul. And the Special Prize went to Finland's *A Journey Through Time*, a poetic film considered by some people more suitable for Music and Arts. Ho hum.

This category bugbear is obviously a huge problem. One of the jury members told me with relief that her next adjudication would be in a festival of "films about the sea", which would make life a lot easier. But I fear she shouldn't count on it. What about *estuary* films, I said mischievously. Wouldn't the BBC be disqualified for showing witty, tongue-in-cheek scenes of fresh water instead of salt? Watch out for the poignant documentary about a redundant Finnish ship-builder

who spent 27 years under a pile of rivets. The seal The seal Don't give me that.

The great news was that the documentary section was much stronger all round (good stuff from America's PBS, France's Canal Plus, A2F and La Sept, Slovenia's TVSLO and Japan's NHK), and that BBC2's *Video Diaries* won the PrixItalia for War, Lives and Videotape — the film by Nick Danziger about children in Kabul. Hoohah. The Special Prize went to one of the more controversial programmes in the competition, Belgium's *Lovers on Trial*, which revealed in extraordinary close-up all the muddled proceedings of a sordid murder trial (behind the scenes as well as in court). It was dynamite, actually — both in the choice of story and in the way it was told — and after it was over, we all felt rather shocked. Which is as much to say that it was a good few minutes before we gamefully tackled our next plateful of good old Parma ham.

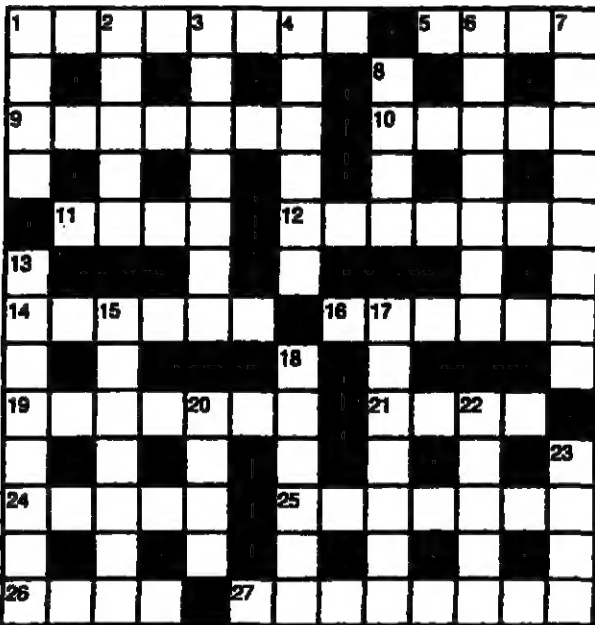
TV PREVIEW

● **Animal Squad Undercover** (Channel 4, Monday, 9pm)
Not many people know that the RSPCA has a Special Operations Unit — a crack squad of undercover chaps whose job is to raid the homes of cockfight promoters. In fact, the blurb accompanying this new three-part series puts the case more strongly: "Most people don't know that SOU exists — which is exactly the way they like it." How weird to agree to be the subject of a TV series, then. *Animal Squad Undercover* is made by Paul Berrill, famous for intrepid camerawork on action-packed series such as *Rescue* (which followed helicopter rescue teams operating over the North Sea, and climaxed with the Piper Alpha disaster). *Animal Squad Undercover* sounds like slightly tame stuff in comparison — much of Monday night's programme entails a fruitless all-day stake-out in a parked car — but we are promised car chases, fights and night-time missions as well.

● **First Tuesday** (ITV, Tuesday, 10.40pm)
It was bound to happen one day. In the state of Texas, a person contemplating suicide can dial a Samaritans-style help-line, and find that it is the equivalent of an 0898 number. Thus for every minute of soul-searching, the desperate person shells out two dollars and feels consequently less inclined to remain alive. The time-honoured advice "Keep them talking" takes on a whole new sinister meaning in this context. I mean, presumably there are some callers who start out with a fifty-fifty chance of survival, yet talk for so long that they have no option but to kill themselves. And possibly they only called up in the first place because they wanted a pizza and mis-dialled. Anyway, *First Tuesday* investigates many such sensational exploitative rackets in a film called *Hostage to Fortune* — the main revelation of which is that there are psychiatric hospitals in America which drum up business by literally kidnapping sane people and tying them to beds (keeping them on their books until the health insurance money runs out). It sounds like something from a Marx Brothers movie — bald-headed men in white coats wielding giant butterfly nets — but it is evidently true. And *First Tuesday* sounds a further alarming note by suggesting it could happen here.

● **The Late Show: Later** (Thursday, BBC2, 11.15pm)
Cracks form at last in the monolithic edifice of *The Late Show*. Perhaps aware that for many viewers the occasional live music element was invariably a cue for bed-time, *The Late Show* has put all the way it was told — and after it was over, we all felt rather shocked. Which is as much to say that it was a good few minutes before we gamefully tackled our next plateful of good old Parma ham.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2909



- ACROSS**
- Small toothed whale (8)
 - Cain's brother (4)
 - Have need of (4,3)
 - Dietetic (5)
 - Specification (4)
 - Corsica capital (7)
 - Bid (6)
 - Atishoo (6)
 - Hypodermic (7)
 - Salamander (4)
 - Northern New York borough (5)
 - Cardinals group (7)
 - Pitcher (4)
 - Grappler (8)
- DOWN**
- Vocational course college (4)
 - Summarise (5)
 - Commissioned serviceman (7)
 - Instalment story (6)
 - Soft roll (7)
 - Remains (6,4)
 - Taj Mahal city (4)
 - Practicable (8)
 - Near death's door (3,4)
 - Astonish (7)
 - Swordsmen (6)
 - Subsequent (4)
 - Circle (5)
 - Listen to (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2908

ACROSS 1 Wide swap 7 Aglow 8 De Lesseps 9 Sol 10 Wage 11 Scarpe 13 Day bed 14 Loden 19 Emire 20 Fast 21 Rag 23 Musketeer 24 Scene 25 Hospital

DOWN 1 Widowed 2 Fall guy 3 So so 4 Agency 5 Close 6 Swill 7 Ashamed 12 Centime 15 Dearest 16 Natural 17 Presto 18 Crash 19 Egger 22 Hump

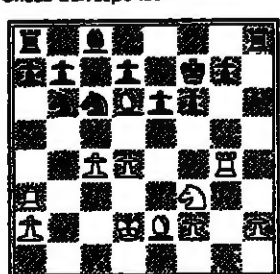
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Hodgson - Gluckman, Lloyds Bank 1992. Although Black is undeveloped, his position appears solid enough. Nevertheless, White's next forced a decisive material gain. What was it?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's



competition: 1 Kcs (threatening 2 Nxb4 mate, and after 2 Bc5 Nxc5, mate with 3 Rxa3- and 4 Ra1 is unavoidable). The winners are: D. Goodwin, Bishop Auckland; P. Seymour, London; E. Rosenstiel, London.

Stroking Suede's ego

Caitlin Moran discovers it's hard to be humble when you're the coolest Best Band in Britain



WHAT'S that noise in the distance? It's the sound of egos and outsize ideas and the skinny, sexy boy-queen

Brett Anderson slapping himself with his microphone. Yay, it is Suede, cover-stare three times over before their first single: sussed and thinner than anyone has a right to be, and possibly the only reason for the British music industry to continue printing records right now. Major label bosses are on their knees, begging for four signatures in exchange for... half a million?... a million? Suede couldn't really say.

Over-glibly described as a cross between Bowie and The Smiths, with a bit of Herdrix thrown in and Anderson's Cockney Rebelesque drawing crows over the top, Suede has been besieged by hysterical press attention over the past nine months. It was not always thus. A year ago, Anderson's flaminate lent the band £500 to record their first demo, which wound its way around all the record company offices. "They'd all say, 'We really like it, but we don't think anyone else will,'" bassist Mat Osman recalls. "And we all sat around at home thinking 'Yeah, well why don't you all just get together and have a little chat, find out you all like us, and sign us up?'"

Six months later, and the band is being wooed by every big label in Britain. Suede is making a very good effort at not being smug.

Anderson's phone rings. "They don't pass the test of being interesting enough," he says, smiling wickedly as the answering machine picks it up. Who would Anderson most like a call from? "Oh, no one really." Not even David



Drowning in press attention: the arrogance of Suede is breathtaking, but perhaps justified

Bowie? "No, not now. Ten years ago, perhaps, when he was sitting in a dark room, writing brilliant music. But not now. It would be a dull call." Sometimes, the arrogance of Suede is breathtaking. But it's justified arrogance.

Their debut single, "The Drowners", was greeted with the *Melody Maker*'s front-page proclamation that Suede was the "Best Band in Britain", and followed by the kind of write-ups normally reserved for dead Americans called Jimi. Or Elvis. Anderson's smile may become wickedly by the end of the year.

But this is what he's always been in waiting for. At school, Anderson was "notorious", shrimping round Haywards Heath in a neatly tailored lemon-yellow suit with bleached blonde hair, an aura of "Don't touch me, I'm special" extending 4ft around him. "Even then I had the idea of the band I was going to be in. I was just waiting for it to happen, really." A saint without disciples, then? "Yeah, you could say that."

house with an artist mother and a father who "did a bit of everything". Anderson just hung around, listened to his punk records and waited to grow up and move to London. "London seemed to be where everything was happening. We see ourselves as a very London band."

And what was the last one? Osman asks. "The Clash."

Anderson wanders off to make a cup of tea and find an ashtray. Then he explains the driving force behind Suede's lyrics and songs. "All my stuff comes from my demon," he says, "who I get on with very well at the moment. I can't see me hanging out with him in 20 years' time, though — we should break up sometime, and with dignity, and occasionally we'll get back into bed together, for old time's sake." Anderson sees his demon as a culminant thing, seeping through the generations and resolving itself in him.

"I'm of peasant lineage, really, and all my forebears were kind of rootless," he says.

"I truly don't think I have a home, at the moment." The lack of a base or background seems to unsettle him slightly. Perhaps this is why he sees Suede as something more than just a pop band, why he's eager to claim London as their own, why all their sell-out shows have an almost feverish air of expectation, and a kind of bleak, black humour that music seems to have been without for years.

When I tell Anderson that shy co-songwriter Bernard Butler is the coolest guitarist I've seen on stage, he says: "Yeah, he's been practising in front of the mirror for years." The prospect of Suede frequenting the Top 20 is a happy one.

When I ask Osman why Suede exists, he shrugs and says: "We just wanna write classic songs."



GUILTY SECRETS: Jenny Eclair

"I have a tendency towards morbidity and guiltily watch documentaries about ill children. I can myself that they are an in-depth look at the NHS or whatever, but really it's voyeurism. I sometimes watch *The Late Show*, and I enjoy *The Bill*. All those rather hard common types — great stuff."

PLEASE DON'T LOOK AWAY



WITHOUT YOUR HELP I WON'T HAVE A HOME

Penipa is a little girl who lives in an orphanage in Thailand. The Paraya Orphanage was founded 15 years ago by Father Brennan to care for children without a home, without sight, without hearing, or who are severely handicapped in other ways. The orphanage doesn't just give these little ones a home, it also gives them a better chance in life.

A home, an education, and, most importantly, love have saved Penipa from an awful fate. Your help could stop these being taken away from her again.

Please help Father Brennan in his fight for these children. Every little bit counts. It costs only £15.12 to provide for a child for a month, £181.44 for a whole year.

THANKYOU FOR CARING ENOUGH TO SEND A DONATION

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